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THE IRISH DEFENCE JOURNAL FEBRUARY 1979 30p

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Vol. XXXIX No. 2 February, 1979

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Under the auspices of the Army Authorities.

editor
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editorial
Army Headquarters,
Parkgate,
Dublin 8, Ireland.
(Tel. 771881).

advertising
The Manager,
An Cosantoir,
Army Headquarters,
Parkgate, Dublin.

An Cosantoir is available from: Officers' and NCOs' Messes; Army Canteens; all leading Newsagents; or by direct subscription from An Cosantoir, Army Headquarters, Parkgate, Dublin 8.

Annual Subscription: £2.40
Overseas, £3.00.

35 ..... **Aspects of South Lebanon**
Comdt. T. L. Kempton, 3rd Inf. Bn.

38 ..... **Soldiers Without Enemies**

47 ..... **Battles Long Ago**
Capt. Cathal Loftus

50 ..... **The Structure of the Spanish Army**

54 ..... **M.A.B. PA-15 Pistol**
Major Richard J. Keogh, USAR

55 ..... **NBC Defence — The Reason Why**
Comdt. D. Lee

56 ..... **What the Papers Notice**

60 ..... **Letters to the Editor**

61 ..... **Book Reviews**

Cover:
Sgt. Paddy Tobin, 3 Inf. Bn., Curragh Command, recruiting for the Command. Photo: Cpl. A. O'Brien.

Chipmunk No. 168 based at Gormanston photographed by an Air Corps photographer. These planes are now 27 years in service.

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Patrol returns to As Sultaniah. (Photo: A/M K. Canavan)

ASPECTS OF SOUTH LEBANON

Comdt. T. L. Kempton, 3 Inf. Bn.*
* (Formerly Coy. Comdr., HQ Coy., 43 Inf. Bn.)

THE Army commenced its overseas commitment in Lebanon in 1958. Twenty years later it returned to that country in much greater strength, having in the intervening period sent officers and men to a variety of countries. It is not my intention in this article, to give a day to day account of 43 Inf. Bn. activities. In fact I do not intend to consider any particular aspect of the Battalion's stay there, but rather to recall general aspects pertaining to the country itself, while they are still fresh in the mind. Of course there were matters, pertinent to the country, which had a direct bearing on the day to day life of the Unit.

The roads for instance, who could ever forget them. After Lebanon the roads in Mayo are of autobahn proportions. A particular problem with the roads was the extraordinary contrast between Lebanese and Israeli roads. Going from one to the other, either way, bordered on the traumatic. In Lebanon, one could only admire drivers of any nationality, who seemed to take under-wheel conditions in their stride. In the case of the local drivers it was awe rather than admiration with which they were observed. Apparently there was only one position for the accelerator, brakes were rarely if ever used, likewise with indicators. All driving was done as if life itself depended on terminating a journey in the shortest possible time. This itself was so baffling; the locals, when they were in situ, seemed to have forever to do whatever had to be done. But once behind a wheel, speed as of the very wind was the essence.

Yet for all the apparent reckless driving, one rarely saw or heard of an accident. When it is considered that in conjunction with very narrow badly surfaced roads, these very roads were frantically clinging to the sides of mountains with no ditches and drops of hundreds of feet, who can blame the Irish onlookers if eyes were closed and breaths were held for long periods on every journey. Allied to speed was a desire to use all available space when travelling. Try if it is possible, to imagine a well-worn Mercedes with blank spaces where the headlights used to be, the rest of the car in similar trim, with four people in the front seats, seven in the rear with both doors open, four in the boot and a couple on the roof. This was how most local soccer teams plus mentors travelled to and from matches. Such cars were true to form while moving, they touched the road in spots.

While the roads and the use made of them created a first impression, water or the lack of it very quickly followed. One could stay off the roads and avoid imagined consequences, but a lack of water is a condition which forces its attention on each individual with remarkable speed. As we know it, there is no water on tap in South Lebanon. All water is taken by tractor, for sale in the local villages, from the few points where it is pumped out of the ground. The tractors drawing these 600-1000

gallon tanks, seem to wend their watery way on a never ending basis. The alternative system was the hardest working individual in the country, the donkey. From 2 a.m.onwards, donkeys could be seen, complete with jerry cans, emerging from the unlikeliest of places. The merest track, if followed in the hope that a reasonable source of water might be just around the corner, invariably led to a trickling tap which filled a can in 10-15 minutes. Where a supply was located, it was in all but one case, contaminated and not fit for even washing in, the latter point being carefully noted and then ignored.

But drinking-water, that elixir without which life ceased, what of it. Each and every day it was imported from Israel. A 3,000 gallon tanker, half-full (that is the amount we were allowed) toiling up the narrow roads, ever up and then distribution to the unlikeliest of places. There was never, ever enough left over to offer to the locals. What we had we eked out day after day and prayed that the tanker would not let us down, although there was a second one, which when the first one, despite the prayers, did demand a rest, had to be taken from its washing water forays to perform the more important role of occupying itself for twelve to fifteen hours every day, collecting and distributing a precious cargo.

Again like the roads, water gave us contrast. Millions of gallons being constantly sprayed over crops in Israel, giving a verdant green colour as far as the eye could see, which was a total contrast with the stony brown barren waste of Lebanon. So the question posed itself, how could there be an inexhaustible supply in one place and a mile away, with an invisible border between, be no water. The answer was relatively simple. Israel has the means of getting water out of the ground, Lebanon does not. This is an aspect of the situation that one would like to think would improve out of all recognition if the stability that is so necessary, was able to be developed. Even now it is difficult to assimilate the fact that, not just in the area occupied by the Battalion, but in the major portion of South Lebanon, there were only three places where water was pumped out of the ground, Ayn Bal, Jwyywa and Wadi Al Burayk.

The difficulties encountered with water might at first glance be considered to have had effects on health, not so much on the local population as that of Westerners. The locals were either remarkably healthy or else bore with fortitude the lack of facilities which help to maintain good health. Hospitals are so rare as to be almost non-existent. There was a hospital in Tibnin, but it only provided out-patient facilities. The only other hospital was in Tyre. Likewise doctors and other medical personnel were so rare, that UNIFIL medical staffs, once in operation, became very busy indeed treating the local population.

However, Unit health was another matter and was to some extent affected by the climate and environment. The heat was a cause of dehydration which complaint was not compounded by a lack of drinking water. As has been mentioned it was not on tap but there was sufficient and cooled at that by the very efficient little coolers brought out with us. The fact that the locals did not suffer from dehydration leads to the inevitable conclusion that it was brought on by climate and tended to die out as personnel got used to the conditions.

It would not be possible to say with certainty if the local population suffered from recurring stomach trouble. Most Westerners in the Middle East land one dose of the 'runs' or as they became affectionately known the 'trots'. It was difficult to run this malady to ground. Cyprus is not a million miles away from Lebanon, the climate is similar, food preparation was done in the same outdoor conditions, but the frequency of the trots in Cyprus was nothing like the same. The malady was not a respecter of persons in that some seemed to suffer more than others over a consistently long period of time. Of course there were benefits, a great number of trimmer figures returned home than went out.

Roads, water, climate, but what of the human element, the people themselves? Will people or customs or both be remembered? There certainly was an admiration for the business acumen of the Lebanese people. The almost indecent haste with which a 'mingi' shop was put up at the edge of camps. The variety of goods sold, the eagerness with which bargaining was done. They were friendly people. Ready to smile, eager to communicate. Of course this could not be said of all the people of South Lebanon. There were those who gave ample evidence of not wishing to be friendly. In fact they showed their unfriendly image in a somewhat forceful manner. It was not easy to associate these people with the friendly attitudes which were evident in the immediate surrounds and if they were understood it was because it was felt that they had been 'got at'; they were in a word being manipulated. This factor alone made it abundantly clear that the whole situation in the country in general and in South Lebanon in particular was a very complex one. In conversations with the 'ordinary man in the street' one wondered about the actual depth of feeling that existed for the country itself. Perhaps it is too simplistic to consider that the country exists because a line was drawn on a map some thirty odd years ago. Probably a more realistic view-point might be the fact that one saw and spoke to people so demoralised, so used to being used as pawns, that they no longer had any regard for anything other than mere self.

To come to customs, a number will not be forgotten. The casualness with which goats had their throats slit at the side of the road. The same method is used for killing cattle; cattle by the way

being kept indoors during the Summer due to a combination of heat and a total lack of grazing. It was only after the first rains that cattle could be put out to graze, when, in very sharp contrast to the brown barren wastes, the country-side took on a colour all too rare, green. Unlike cattle, goats spent all day wandering over large tracts of country-side eating anything at all edible. With the goats there was always a shepherd in attendance, whose every shouted order was obeyed without demur. This was noticed particularly in the evening time when rounding up commenced. In a matter of minutes a few aptly directed orders brought the largest of herds to order before the long trek home.

Men and boys holding hands, arms linked or thrown around shoulders. What made these actions, so obviously acceptable amongst Arabs, not so much abhorrent, because they were not, but so constantly a cause of raised eyebrows. Understanding of such intimacies was made easier when one became aware of the total antipathy to courtship as we know it. Formal approaches had to be made to a girl's parents before a marriage was arranged, this being the all-clear for the marriage to take place immediately or for a form of courtship to take place. The tale of Habib, the English-speaking Policeman at Haddathah, was both hilarious and tragic, and illustrates the point. The refusal of the girl's parents to entertain his proposal for marriage; his magnificent and successful plot to kidnap the girl; his guile in using another policeman as a witness to a fact that would make her unacceptable to her parents. All led to the marriage taking place, for her at the age of thirteen (this is quite a common age for girls to be married). Now at the age of sixteen, with one child, she seemed to be less than enthusiastic about the relationship, borne out by his eagerness to explain the ease with which divorce is arranged; simply a return of the fixed dowry of £600 to the parents together with the girl of course, and that would be that.

A custom which took a while to get used to was hospitality. The Lebanese were most engaging and generous hosts. One was never in a position to say, after a visit to a house, whether the people were poor or well-off. Everything was laid on for guests and the most important point to be borne in mind was that the host was responsible for everything down to the provision of cigarettes. Visits were a great help in establishing a friendly relationship with the local population with whom one came into immediate contact. These visits and the normal daily communication helped in particular to allow us to pick up many words and phrases in Arabic. The ease with which young local boys could rattle off whole sentences in fluent Irish, was mirrored by an equal capacity of young soldiers, not just to use words known to all, but to actually speak what one presumed was fluent Arabic, if the free-flowing conversations between them and the locals was anything to go by.

Coming from an agricultural country and living in Lebanon for a period of time allowed that contrast to be noted in particular. It is not known for farmers in this country to set off at two in the morning, with tilly-lamps to work in the fields. At tobacco harvesting time in Lebanon, this is a nightly occurrence as tobacco leaves may only be picked at night due to the fact that the sun causes a substance to ooze out of the leaves, which then become unfit to handle. Neither does one see in this country ploughing being done by oxen pulling a wooden plough or where oxen were not available the use of a mule or two. Ploughing incidentally was done on the rockiest and unlikeliest of terrain, all in the interests of tobacco planting, which is the major if not the only crop in the hills. Down on the coast one became used to large tracts under oranges, lemons and bananas. One feels that the timeless quality of wooden ploughs and other primitive methods, might disappear if there were agencies in existence to up-date the whole spectrum of agriculture.

So what of the ordinary everyday things that we in Ireland take for granted, bearing in mind that our country, as master of its own destinies, is not much older than Lebanon. TV - there is no equivalent of RTE (the reader may make his own conclusion on this point). Television is received from Jordan and Israel, the latter having Arabic sub-titles on its various programmes. Cinema - there is no outlet for films other than in the larger areas of population such as Beirut, Tyre and Sidon. They and a very few others are, in fact, the only large areas of population. There are no equivalents of Mullingar, Fermoy, Clonmel or Athlone. There are very many villages populated in the main by obviously poor people, of whom the teen-age girls tend to be astonishingly beautiful, a beauty which loses its lustre by the age of thirty. Supermarkets in villages were not to be found, all goods were sold at open markets or in small shops. Despite the earlier mention of cars, there are not many of them. Pubs or lounges are unheard of. In a general sense Muslims do not drink. One area where modernity has been allowed to enter is the call to prayer from the local mosque. First call is at four in the morning and being down-wind of the call meant one was roused early due to the modern trend of using tape-recordings over a public address system.

I suppose it would be unfair to say that there is a lot to be said for a part of the world which has not had to bother with all the trappings of modern society. One might like to laud an outpost of the unspoilt way of life. But it is obvious that while that might be the visitors point of view it would not necessarily be the Lebanese one. Running water in every house, all the year round, would be a very welcome achievement. Modern agricultural methods and machinery would be another. One would hope that in achieving these things that life

(Continued on Page 46)

SOLDIERS WITHOUT ENEMIES

WITHIN the framework of the interim force in Lebanon, the 8th Marine Infantry Parachute Regiment, Castres, relieved its brother regiment, the Cascassonne "3rd" at the end of September and donned the blue berets of the United Nations.

The Commander, Colonel Cann kindly answered some questions put by "Armees d'Aujourd'hui" (from which this translation is condensed).

Q. Colonel, could you briefly state what your mission is here in Lebanon?

A. As always when one speaks of a mission it is necessary to define both the missive and "esprit".

The missive- resolution No. 425 of the Organisation of the United Nations, 19th March 1978 which specifies that we are here to help the Lebanese government restore its sovereignty.

The "espirit" of the mission involves surveillance by the regiment of a 20km by 12km zone situated near the sea and the Israeli border. Surveillance in this instance means that we are prohibited from moving armed persons. This is not easy as we have to respect the inviolability of about 10 small Palestinian enclaves in the north, and in the south a strip of land the length of the Israeli border, which is occupied by Christian militias. The "esprit" is outwardly one of pacification since it involves keeping several adversaries apart.

That in brief is how our mission can be described. We have kept combatants apart and are trying to provide the local authorities with the means to accomplish their task.

Q. What conditions prevailed on your being sent to Lebanon?

A. We did not arrive in the unknown! As a matter of fact, since the regiment had been earmarked to replace the 3rd M.I.P.R. we followed the situation from day to day from Castres. Furthermore I commissioned my various subordinates to write directly to their corresponding ranks in the field, so that the replacement was carried out without any difficulty either numerically or technically. Furthermore the geography of Lebanon was well known and a good number of my men had already served outside the parent state so the transfer was not too difficult.

Let me add that, having carried out the difficult role of pacification in a very noteworthy manner, role of pacification in a very noteworthy manner, we were easily able to follow in the footsteps of the "3rd".

Q. In being placed at the disposal of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon your regiment was confronted with a task entirely different to its usual mission. Did this pose any particular problems?

A. I think the answer to your question must be answered at two different levels.

(a) At the level of conception and command, it is not a question of conducting military operations for the purpose of obtaining a decisive result against the enemy in a selected strip of terrain and if possible within a certain period. On the contrary, it is a question of controlling confrontations with armed groups, who are not enemies, to prevent escalade, while on radio the operators do their utmost to immediately forewarn the "locals responsible" to cease fire. Confrontation then gives way to discussion.

In the beginning was the word, says the Bible. It must be understood that in this biblical country where the youngest of adolescents is armed, the "word" henceforth extends to Kalachnikoff gun-fire. A language which it is necessary to know in order to control virtual escalade. A kind of gesticulation which is related fairly well to the dialect of dissuasion which our ranks have learned in the Schools.

If instead of paving the way to dissuasion, confrontation is transformed by escalade in a generalised confrontment . . . that would be the failure of our mission. You see that the only difference is that we still haven't got any red telephone. By chance our radio stations are of a quality which is very noteworthy.

At execution level I wish to say that fundamentally, the techniques, the elementary actions by combatants are absolutely identical to those of men in training. Only the aim differs for it is not a question of destroying but rather capturing elements which would be able to infiltrate the zone which we control and it is precisely that which is difficult. Already on various occasions by day as well as by night, we succeeded in doing this without any shots being fired owing to the excellent night observation equipment which the regiment has at its disposal and thus that proves that the same technique could enable totally different objectives to be achieved. Of course the required effectiveness can only be obtained at the price of strict discipline on firing, the advantage of permanent instruction and training, as section level in particular.

For the moment I have not delegated the order to open fire below section leader. And the order is to be put into force only after having been given twice. I am aware that it is a dangerous threshold but I want to show everyone here that we are not ""go to the wars". If one day, somewhere, we must wage war for France we will do so. Here we must make peace for the United Nations - we will do this with the same determination.

Q. The PM Mat. 49 has been replaced by the Swiss SIG automatic rifle. Do you find this weapon satisfactory?

A. In order to familiarise ourselves with this new weapon, with regard to firing as well as handling by day and night, the regiment was equipped with 120 SIGs since 1st September - about one month before our departure.

This weapon has three firing positions: single shots, burst of 3 and burst of 20 cartridges. We were immediately able to establish that when firing shot by shot, up to 300 metres, it is a remarkable weapon and that using bursts of 3, the last bullet is almost always lost. Although it is a very good weapon, but one on which it is difficult to give a definite opinion because here in Lebanon we do not use it under conditions which would be the same as normal combat. However, I would say that it was far from being equivalent to the FAMAS, which we have been promised for 1979, and my main hope is to be the first group to use this on our return to France. A small gift of this type would be greatly appreciated.

Q. You haven't got the necessary cartridges to fire grenades with the SIG; does this hinder you?

A. I will answer this question not as a Commanding Officer, but with my experience as a section leader and company commander. Speaking for myself, I have always set apart arms made for flat fire from other types because it is well known that aiming systems are started off and deteriorate when you use the grenade launcher. In other respects, and by night in particular, the mixing of ammunition is not good and a real cartridge instead of a femillette cartridge can have very serious consequences. Thus it is not necessary to mix types; the SIG is good and I hope that the capacity of the FAMAS will not be altered by grenade-launchers.

Q. How are relations with the local population?

A. It is necessary to distinguish between the several types of population. First of all the Palestinians in the north with whom we always keep relations reserved sometimes very tense. They are entitled to be armed in particular enclaves which they sometimes leave and we are on the watch-out to disarm them then. This does not please them very much but we remain firm in the spirit of our mission.

Then there are the Christian militias in the south between Israel and us. They are very uncompromising because they are very much affected by everything that happens in Beirut. In fact, contrary to popular belief, the majority of the militias are townspeople. We are very firm towards them and I believe that relations will improve when the situation in Beirut is clarified.

Worthy of note are the mayor and mouktar (chosen leader) with whom we have excellent relations and certainly the people themselves, often French-speaking, very needy but asking nothing. We try to help them as much as possible with regard to medical needs - every morning the regiment doctor holds surgery - and we help with regard to schooling for the children while preparations are being made to re-open the schools.

Furthermore, we are frequently received by Lebanese families and in addition my captains make a remarkable job of contact which should be emphasised. I must say that the young generation of captains are a pleasure to look upon and they have no cause to envy their seniors in Indo-China or Algeria. One of them, on seeing to what degree religious views can be aggravated, recommended that the reference to religion on identity cards should be replaced by the word "Lebanese". This measure received an enthusiastic welcome because it could avoid someone being killed if by misfortune they ran into an enemy roadcheck. Thus it is an initiative of which I fully approve because it comes well within the framework of the restoration of Lebanese political authority which should be placed above religious feelings.

Unfortunately, often what is done one day has to be redone the next because there is no shortage of trouble makers and they appear as soon as we have our backs turned. To finish I would mention a 5th category here - my men, who while serving here consider themselves lucky to be French and are proud and happy of this.

Q. Well then, Colonel, morale is good?

A. When the aircraft bringing the 2nd part of my regiment arrived at Beirut airport on 2nd October last, the 300 men of the 3rd Marine Para. Inf. Regt. who were due to depart applauded as soon as the wheels touched the ground. A little later I learned that at the same instant, in the aircraft, the men who were arriving did the same. For me it is extremely significant to see men in such completely opposite situations having such identical reactions and that gives a very clear idea of how moral is.

Let me add that a few days before our departure the president of the Republic, Mr. Giscard d'Estaing telephoned me personally in order to specify the motive of the mission and asked me to inform the men of this; they were extremely pleased at this show of interest by the President. Finally, as the regiment left behind no less than 198 wives, excluding the wives of the men in the AML Sqdn. of the RHP, we organised a truly social service with administrative and technical support at the base in order to help and inform to the maximum. I restarted the system which the 3 M.I.P.R. had inaugurated and our quarterly gazette "Allo, Ancre, ici Dragon" is now published every fortnight and is henceforth called "Allo Ancre, ici Lebanon". It is furnished with information partly by us and partly by the home base, and is distributed not only to the men but also to all their families, which enables them to almost live with the regiment. Thus you can see that at the moment morale is good.

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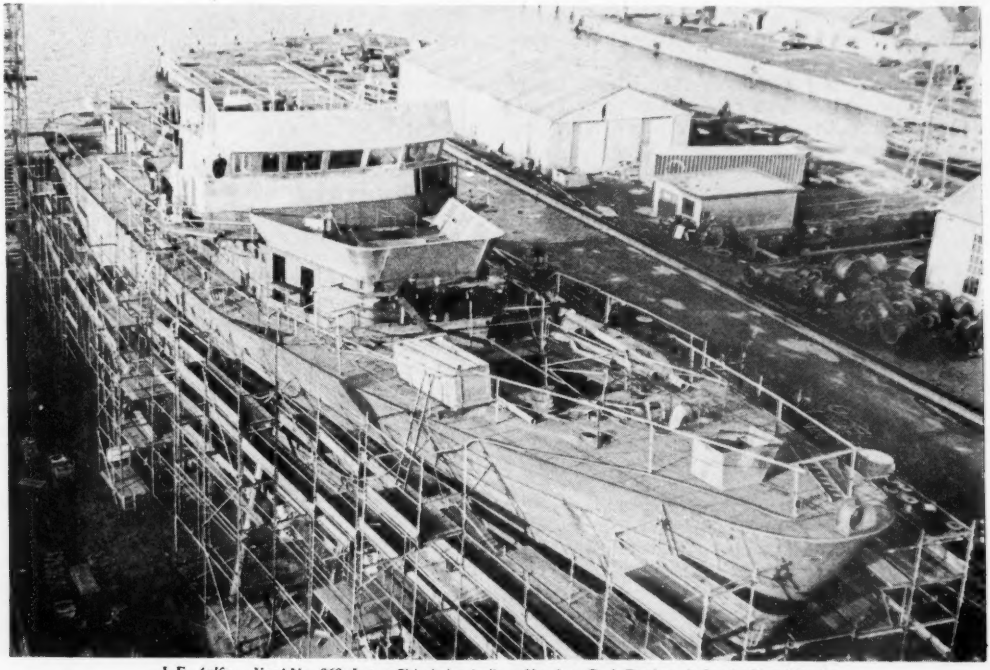


L.E. *Aoife* — Yard No. 969. Latest Ship being built at Verolmg Cork Dockyards for the Naval Service.

Western Command

Lt. Gen. Carl O'Sullivan, C.O.S. inspecting a Guard of Honour from the 28 Inf. Bn. under Lt. N. McEvoy. (Photo: Sgt. J. O'Brien)

A recent scene at Finner Camp by Sgt. J. O'Brien.

Performing at a concert at Finner Camp. L. to R: Sgt. M. J. Doherty, Lt. A. Ward, C.F.; Cpls. Brennan; C/S P. Neilan; Lt. P. Prendergast; Cpl. D. McNamara; Comdt. P. J. Keane; Cpl. J. Breheney. (Photo: Sgt. J. O'Brien)

28 Inf. Bn. Basketball team winners of the Western Command Novice Championships - Front L. to R: Comdt. R. Cawley; Pte. K. Dykes; Lt. Col. D. Mulvihill, O.C.; Pte. J. Maguire; Lt. L. Murphy. Back: C/S W. McDonagh; Ptes. W. Gavigan, M. Walsh, J. Brennan, Cpls. A. McMahon and L. Murphy. (Photo: J. O'Brien)

A soldier from the 28th Inf. Bn. on checkpoint duty. (Photo: Sgt. J. O'Brien)

Southern Command

Personnel who served with B Coy. 43 Irish Bn. in the Lebanon, who were presented with UNIFIL Medals and/or Certificates by Col. S. Gallagher OC 1st BDE. Included are the Parents of Pte. Gerard Moore who was killed in the Lebanon. (Left to Right) Pte. J. O'Connor, Cpl. J. Barry, Comdt. W. Kiely, Mr. A. Moore, Col. S. Gallagher, Lt. Col. M. O'Shea, Mrs. Moore, Pte. L. Dorgan, Comdt. J. Casey OC B Coy. 43 Bn., and Cpl. T. Fitzgerald.

Curragh Command

Presentation of Group Certs to members of the 8th Army Class at the Curragh Vocational School. Front - L. to R: Lt. Col. E. Quigley, EO; Mr. G. Grehan, V.E.C.; Mr. P. Flynn, School Principal; Mr. D. Gannon, Inspector; Mrs. B. Henry and Mrs. T. Costigan, Teachers and Lt. Col. J. Fagan, A.P.M. Centre: Sgt. J. O'Neill, Military College; Ptes. J. McSweeney, 3 Inf. Batt., D. Meade, 1 Hosp. Coy., D. O'Rourke, 3 Inf. Bn., Mr. K. Healy, Teacher; Comdt. H. O'Connor, 1 Armd. Sqn.; Capt. J. Ryan, Military College. Back: Mr. B. Donoghue, Teacher; Sgmn. A. Brennan, Depot Sigs.; Tpr. J. Ottley, 1 Armd. Car Sqn.; Cpl. J. Kelly, Depot MPC; and Cpl. M. Kavanagh, 1 Armd. Car Sqn. (Photo: F. Donnelly-Swift)

Presentation to Ex-members of GTD, McDonagh Bks., Curragh Camp. **Front L. to R:** Ex-Sgt. G. Price, BQMS J. Fogarty AAS, Lt./Col. J. Bergin OC GTD, Ex Sgt. M. O'Brien, Ex Cpl. S. Byrne. **Back L. to R:** RSM T. Conlan GTD, C/S B. Leigh GTD, Ex Cpl. L. Clifford, Sgt. T. Kelly, AAS. (Photo: F. Donnelly-Swift)

Air Corps

Recipients of D.S.M. presented by the Minister for Defence at Baldonnel recently. L. to R: Comdt. P. O'Shea, 1st and 2nd Class; Sgt. W. Byrne, 1st Class; A/M O. Sherry, 1st Class; Capt. Loughnane, 2nd Class; A/M B. Byrne, 2nd Class; A/M R. O'Sullivan, 3rd Class and Ex-Sgt. R. Murray, 2nd Class. (Air Corps photo)

Winners of the Adm. Wing table tennis tournament - L. to R: Fr. R. Field, C.F. third; Sgt. M. Hutchinson, winner and A/M E. O'Reilly, runner-up. (Air Corps photo)

On October 1, Canada withdrew its forces from UNIFIL, as the government had promised when the communications element was first committed last April. The Canadians were replaced by signallers from several of the other contingents, plus some UN civilians. On October 6 the Canadians flew home. Their six months are best summarized in the words of Tpr. Ken Miles: "It was a good experience. It was different, and it was for real."

(Sentinel - Canada)

Off-duty life in Damascus is very conservative. As the capital of a devoutly Moslem country, Damascus has not been extensively westernized. As Sgt. Garry Ollenberger, UNDOF HQ's chief clerk, commented. "Nightlife is non-existent, and outside of going to a restaurant or a movie there is very little to do."

However, the shopping is excellent. Damascus produced beautiful linen and cloth, and is renowned as the gold centre of the Middle East.

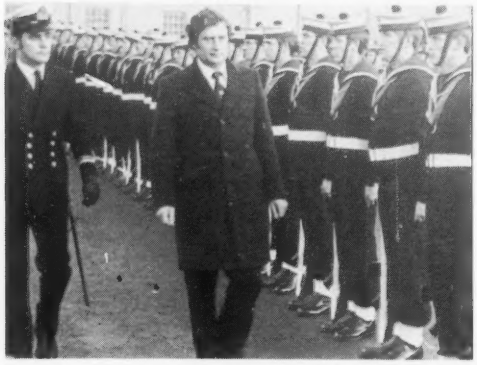
(Sentinel - Canada)

All Army Squash Champions 1979, the Air Corps team L. to R., front, Flt/Sgt. S. Curran, Sgt. F. Archibold. Back: Comdt. P. McMahon, Sgt. J. Byrne, Comdt. K. Byrne. F/S Curran and Sgt. Byrne also won Junior and Senior titles in the Air Corps championships, while Capt. F. Condon got the Novice title. Sgt. Byrne is the All-Army Senior Individual title holder, and at present he is on the fringe for the Irish team selection, being ranked No. 3 in Leinster and No. 7 in Ireland. (Air Corps photo).

Naval Service

Recruits of A Class "India" at their recent Passing out Parade. Front Row, from left: L/Seaman R. Byrne, Class Instructor, Rec. D. Howard (Dublin), Lt. R. Ryan, Rec. Trg. offr., Lt. Cdr. P. Kavanagh, NS, School Comdt., Rev. Fr. M. O'Brien, C.F., Recs. S. Cole (Dublin), C. Shields (Dundalk). Back Row: Recs. K. McMahon, D. Woods (Wexford) and B. Duffy (Dublin).

A/Telegraphist P. Hodgers, Chairman, Club na Mairnealach, at the Naval Base, Haulbowline is greeted by CONS Capt. P. Kavanagh, NS at the official opening recently by CONS of Club na Mairnealach. (N.S. photo)



The Minister for Defence Mr. R. Molloy, T.D. inspects a Guard of Honour, under Lt. A. M. Mahony, NS, prior to presenting Commissions to Naval Cadets at Naval Base, Haulbowline recently. (N.S. photo)

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Pictures by Comdt. J. Kerwin

Cpl. Martin McKnight from Donegal with friends in At Tiri.

Tprs. L. Toolan, J. Hudson and J. Ryan 4th Motor Sqn. at At Tiri. (Photo: Comdt. G. Kerwin)

Sgt. T. Fitzgerald, Cork briefing Ptes. G. Boland and B. Kelly from Clonmel. (Photo: Comdt. G. Kerwin)

Sgt. T. Fitzgerald, Cork at Op Ras. (Photo: Comdt. G. Kerwin)

Pte. J. D'Arcy, Ballinasloe rendering First Aid in At Tiri. (Photo: Comdt. G. Kerwin)

44 Inf. Bn. UNIFIL

Pictures by A/m K. Canavan

Bn. Staff L. to R: Comdts. G. McMahon, J. Harold, N. Bergin, Lt. Col. V. Savino, Comdts. M. Shannon and P. Grennan. (Photo: A/M K. Canavan)

Cpl. S. Hickey, Limerick; Gnr. B. Kennefick, Ballincollig and Sgmn. A. Aston, Baldonnel at 'B' Coy. post in Bra Shit. (Photo: A/M K. Canavan)

Pte. T. McLoughlin, 28 Inf. Bn. on duty at Al Journ with policeman Y. Kallas. (Photo: K. Canavan)

Sandbagging at As Sultaniah. Ptes. T. Prendergast, W. Cox, Gnrs. M. Sweeney, A. Dunne, and Pte. P. McDevitt. (Photo: A/M K. Canavan)

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(Continued from Page 37)

could then proceed without the pitfalls that these items bring in their wake. Of course to imagine that the Lebanese desire is our idea of the way to live would be to miss the whole point of having spent six months in their country. Whatever may follow, be it good or bad, is seen as secondary to the desire for peace. The lack of a lasting peace is seen as a greater scourge than anything else. The ravages of war are very obvious and it is an earnest hope that our presence in Lebanon will help to give to that country that which is desired above all else.

BATTLES LONG AGO

Capt. Cathal Loftus

THE Truce when it came was a relief to the hard pressed and an interruption to the successful. Ernie O'Malley had been successful and he resented the Truce. However, he resolved to turn it to advantage by using the time to train and resupply his forces in anticipation of a resumption. He was in London getting things when Collins, who was there for talks, lit on him and made out that he was gallavantin or something. Meanwhile, back at the ranch, some of O'Malleys men violated the Truce by robbing weapons belonging to the Crown Forces. There was blue murder about this and the relationship between O'Malley and GHQ was further strained before things got patched up.

You come to appreciate what a blend of initiative and discipline a guerilla movement is when you read O'Malley's account. Guerilla gangs do what they can, when they can and if they feel up to it. The command staff may provide ideas, stimulus, training and even a little material and expertise - but no way does it control in the accepted sense. Communication between the field and the staff is generally poor - in both the technical and personal sense.

The Treaty was ratified by the Dail but was not approved by the field forces to any great extent. Accordingly the field leaders got together to overrule the faint hearted (as they saw it) government. We can see that now as a criminal conspiracy but at the time this was not so clear. Soldiers were the wholesome people, civilians, and particularly politicians, were a decadent sort of people who wouldn't even know what ideals were - much less have any. War was a holy thing, peace a corrupting influence - men got soft. Well might we laugh now, but these were prominent popular prejudices at the time and particularly among the men and women who peopled the movement. They were young (Major General O'Malley was 23!) and they did not have the vote - so much for the democracy of the Dail! They did not have any scruples about setting up a new GHQ at the Four Courts in place of the existing one. To this would rally all who believed in the Republic including the Pro Treaty elements of the Forces once they had seen the light (as certainly they would - Liam Lynch, the alternative Chief of Staff, kept saying "Unity will come"). The reunited movement would take the field against the British and finally drive them out of the country.

O'Malley was primarily a soldier. And professionalistic. He advocated a different type of army to take account of the altered circumstances. The renewed war was to be against the British Army and would require a more conventional approach than the mere driving in of outposts as practiced heretofore. He was largely ignored. His efforts to have the Four Courts fortified met with some, albeit feeble, response. Other of his ideas were acted out; subversion and kidnapping, and these brought a lively response. From the Government!

At 4 a.m. one fine morning artillery opened up on the Four Courts. The contest between the Free State government and the Republican forces had escalated onto a new level. The Four Courts fell, the garrison surrendered and O'Malley, its commander, escaped from captivity to mingle with the crowds watching the smouldering ruins. His account of the fight and of the 'vox-pop' is most revealing.

The Civil War was being waged outside of the city now and O'Malley joined his colleagues in the field where he was welcomed with enthusiasm. He himself was not so euphonic; "I was annoyed by their calm acceptance of our lack of planning as heroism." He could not seem to get this idea across. The forces in the field were in groups, holding their own and awaiting link ups with other groups (which were also holding their own!). He got down to business and injecting some aggression into the Republicans he lead various drives to expand the territory controlled to to ejected Free State Forces in a variety of places. These gains were shortlived as the Republicans failed to adequately garrison and defend the captured posts. And the Free Staters just slipped back in when the Republicans left.

News came of Cathal Brugha's death and met with O'Malley's disapproval. Induced martyrdom being unsoldierly. Worse news was of the death of Ernie's brother, Charlie. Aged seventeen, he had been killed in the fighting in O'Connell Street. "I had not seen him during four years, throughout the Tan War, but I had seen him a few times in the Four Courts before we were attacked, all too few the times I now understood." One senses that nothing could have been worth that loss to Ernie.

The Republican mainstrength and its GHQ was in Munster. Connacht was quite 'staunch' too but O'Malley was out in the cold. His job was to 'organize' Leinster and Ulster. His appointment was Assistant Chief of Staff and his base the most insecure city of Dublin. Here he was a changed and more mature man. He allowed himself the pleasure of tennis in stark contrast to his earlier aescetic lifestyle. He ordered a suit. But most significantly he visited his family, met his four year old brother for the first time and therafter "came home once a week." That was really living dangerously. But O'Malley was done with his self-imposed isolation. The moratorium was over.

A visit to the Knockmealdowns was less cheering than his previous one for he could find no crumb of

comfort, no hope at all, and he read the situation correctly - the war was lost. But people were caught up in it and there was no way out. Honourably.

Back in Dublin he was captured after a shootout and found himself a prisoner in hospitals and jails for the next year and a half. Rumour had it that he would be executed early on and the suit he had ordered was called his "shooting suit" by fellow lags when it arrived. O'Malley's response to the imminence of death was to get an account of his moratorium onto paper for the benefit of his brothers. Of course the execution failed to materialise and Ireland was spared a fine writer. The account which he had penned came to fruition in the Thirties as "On Another Man's Wound" (or "Army Without Banners").

Prison life was awful and the sense of futility was compounded by the news from the field; "A campaign of destruction that did not serve any immediate military objective, or did not grow out of a definite military undertaking seemed to me futile, and, in a sense, cowardly."

He became a T.D. without as much as by your leave. The supporters outside nominated him and canvassed and he was elected for North Dublin with 9785 No. 1s of his own and some of Dick Mulcahy's transfers! He had not asked, or been asked. And he resented this imposition. "I hated being a T.D."

The war was over and the pressure was on to release the prisoners. A hunger strike was used to expedite this development. In vain. A softening government attitude was checked by a cold unchristian Church. It was summer 1924 before O'Malley, the last of the prisoners, was released "to take up the threads of inscrutable destiny".

Reflecting in the quiet of the depopulated prison prior to his release "It was difficult to define even to myself what I felt. I saw a certain hardness in our idealism. It made us aloof from ordinary living as if we were above it. There was an insistence on principle which often stood coldly out where immediate feeling was needed. And of the men I fought with I could not say I had an intimate friend, and yet we might fight again together, bound by a common spirit. If I could find an acceptance of the two lives, that of the struggle and that of one's own development in the feeling of beauty and all its shades which I could not express - that would be the ideal."

The Singing Flame is a short and sombre book. It is also very simple. You could read it through quite rapidly. But it is more than a narrative. It took years and years to write and must have been drafted and redrafted many many times. Everything that is in it is significant. Also significant are the things which are not in it. Seldom does O'Malley allude to dates yet checking on his sequence of events I find that everything is in the right order and at the correct intervals. The people are in the places and their lines tally with all other available accounts. There are unnamed persons who are instantly recognizeable to old Republicans so accurately and so succintly does O'Malley describe them. The Singing Flame was ready for publication in the fifties but O'Malley said the time was not ripe. 'There would be too many red faces.' 'Go on' said his old Republican cronies - 'show them up' (meaning 'embarass the Free Staters'). 'No' said O'Malley 'you'd be surprised whose faces would be red.' Menacingly and enigmatic ally - to still further commotion.

Well now, the truth is out. O'Malley's book which many believe was intended to be published posthumously is composed of evidence as though an oath. Respect for truth takes precedence over partisan loyalty and the witness confines himself to matters of which he has direct knowledge. The Singing Flame is just one man's story but I am sure that it will come to be regarded as the best evidence we have about the Civil War. It is not a comprehensive history but I believe that it will do more to advance our understanding of that dark period in our recent history - a period which has been obscured from the view of the present generation by bluster, recrimination, righteous indignation, and political propaganda - but mostly by a charitable and embarassed silence. The Nation must come to terms with its past and, in affording it an opportunity to do so, Ernie O'Malley has served his nation well. This book will be read and reread and each time it will yield fresh insights. In hardback it costs £10 but there is a paperback at a quarter the price. It is well worth owning, you will want to read it many times.

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Send Best Wishes to the Army in the Lebanon

THE STRUCTURE OF THE SPANISH ARMY

THE Spanish Army consists of about 230,000 men, one sixth of whom are officers (from sergeants to generals). These findings have been published by the press agency Efe on the basis of the latest national figures for 1977 and international figures for 1978, on the occasion of an order issued by the Ministry of Defence on September 19th, setting up a Commission for the Study of Promotion Lists in the Army.

Basic Guidelines of the Ministerial Order

Among the chief basic guidelines that the Higher Commission for Army Barracks Personnel will have to take into account, express reference is made in the ministerial order to the ratio of officers to the actual resources of the Army, the obtaining of a suitable proportion between the different commissions (or ranks, as they are popularly called), the adaptation of ages to commissions and postings, to the length of time for which they are held, and to their training value.

Moreover, as part of the aim of securing "a progressive, appreciable reduction in the age of officers", promotions will continue to be based on "strict criteria of seniority and length of service", although for certain higher commissions, in addition to seniority, selectivity criteria will also be introduced. These will, however, always be inspired by the "best interests of the service and the principles of equity and justice". To this end, certain specific levels of training and occupancy of posts will be established throughout the military career, as a prerequisite for promotion to certain commissions, which the order leaves unspecified.

. The Regulation of Promotions

About a year ago, the "general report 1/77" of the Minister of Defence and First Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, General Manuel Gutierrez Mellado, established, among other things, a programme of action for the new Ministry. With regard to personnel, the programme included the reconsideration and standardization, so far as possible, of the promotion laws of the three services, the reconsideration of the "grave problem of situation "B" at the present time", and the "personnel law of the Army and the reconsideration, if necessary, of those of the Navy and the Air Force." In fact, in respect of the latter laws, royal decrees were published on June 2nd 1977 and June 30th 1978 regulating promotions of officers belonging to the Air Arm and Corps of the Air Force and to the Corps of the Navy.

Inhabitants Per Soldier in Spain and the Mediterranean

As regards the suitability of the ratio of Spanish Army forces to the general population, Spain has one soldier for every 165 inhabitants. In relation with Spain's neighbours in the Mediterranean, countries with more forces per inhabitant are as follows: Israel (one soldier for every 26 inhabitants), Greece (57), Turkey (109), Libya (120), Egypt (136) and France (163). Five Armies have fewer men per inhabitant than Spain's, i.e. they have more inhabitants per soldier: Italy (172), Portugal (250), Morocco (243), Algeria (267) and Tunis (333).

These figures were obtained by the Press Agency "Efe" from a study published last September in "The Military Balance" (1978-79), produced by the prestigious Institute of Strategic Studies in London.

As regards the relation between the number of officers and the number of men in the Army, Efe has discovered that, according to the latest figures available (late 1977), the ratio was six soldiers per officer of whatever rank, and eighteen soldiers and non-commissioned officers per officer of a higher rank than that of N.C.O. (officers, field-officers and generals).

The Appropriateness of Officers' Ranks and Ages

The maintaining of a suitable proportion between the various commissions (ranks) in the Army and the achieving of a younger average age in such commissions are two further basic guidelines of the order of the Ministry of Defence. In the Minister of Defence's "General Report 1/77", it was stated: "We have to realize that our Army is one of the most elderly in the world."

"Efe" has investigated the following ranks, the proportion between them and the most numerous age groups in each commission, with the following results:

Composition of the Army

Commissions	Number	%	Most numerous age group
Generals	335	1	64-65 years
Colonels	1200	3	60-61 years
Majors	3740	10	46-47 years
Captains	7190	20	40-41 years
Lieutenants	6200	17	42-43 or 24-25 years
NCO's	15600	43	(on the active list

Situation and Promotion Lists

For a better understanding of these figures, "Efe" reviews briefly the "situations" and promotion lists of officers in the Spanish Army.

"Group A", which is only for generals, and the "situation of arms command", for field-officers and other officers, are postings which involve specific command duties and require good physical condition.

"Group B", for generals only, and the "situation of Arm or Corps posting", for field-officers and other officers, comprise the remaining postings on the active list, together with the officers from the first two who reach the regulation age.

These age limits, for transferring generals from "Group A" to B and from B to the reserve list (generals do not retire) and field-officers and other officers from the "Army Command" to the "Arm of Corps posting", and from the latter to obligatory retirement, are as follows, except for specific cases:

Lieutenant generals (on reaching the age of sixty-six and seventy, respectively), major-generals (sixty-four and sixty-eight), brigadiers (sixty-two and sixty-six), lieutenant-colonels (fifty-eight and sixty-two), majors (fifty and sixty-two), captains (fifty-two and fifty-eight and lieutenants (forty-six and fifty-three).

Lists

As for the Army command lists, the active list comprises the officers from the special Academies devoted to higher military training. The lists are as follows:

Active list: Arms Command (Consists of combat units, viz. Infantry, Cavalry, Artillery and Engineers), commissions ranging from lieutenant to colonel, with the age limits already mentioned.

Active list: Arm or Corps posting. Consists of officers from the previous list who have reached the established age limit or who have declined physically or in the ability to command or who have failed to pass the qualifying courses. Commissions: from lieutenant to colonel.

Active list: Corps and services (units designed to support the fighting arms: supply, health, legal, accounting, pharmacy, veterinary, armaments engineers, construction engineers, etc.) Commissions: lieutenant to colonel. Retirement ages, the same as those for arm or corps postings. Transfer to the reserve list at the same age as generals in group B.

Reserve list: includes non-professional field-officers, officers (and N.C.O.'s) and professionals who have been discharged from the Army for a legitimate and honourable reason. Commissions: lieutenant to major. Age limits: as fixed in their respective arms and corps, for those of the same rank.

Special list of commanding officers and other officers. Two branches: command (arms and corps) and experts (automotion, mechanics, electricity, electronics, optics, chemistry, etc.) Both of these branches consist of the corresponding lists peculiar to each arm, corps or speciality and comprise field-officers and other officers from the basic school for non-commissioned officers. Commissions: from 2nd lieutenant or lieutenant, to major. Retirement ages: generally speaking, the same as the lists of arm or corps postings and that of corps and services.

Current Promotion System

The present system of promotion in the Army, which is now being reformed, is based on seniority in the promotion roster for officers. For promotion to the rank of major, a course for field-officers must be successfully completed at the academies of arms, corps and services (formerly, at the application schools, incorporated into the academies a few years ago).

For promotion to the rank of general, the Higher Council of the Army, now dependent on the General Army Headquarters, selects lieutenant-colonels and colonels by age, merit, physical condition and their place on the promotion roster, to follow the course for the higher ranks at the Higher Army School. Promotion to the rank of lieutenant-general requires a further course. Army lieutenant-generals are transferred to the reserve list at the age of seventy. In the Navy and the Air Force, the transfer to the reserve list is effected after twelve years service at the rank of general (brigadier, major-general and lieutenant-general or their counterparts of rear-admiral, vice-admiral and admiral).

New Systems in the Navy and the Air Force

In the Army and the Air Force, in accordance with regulations issued in 1969 and 1968, respectively, and partially reformed in 1978 and 1977, the systems for the promotion of officers have seen the introduction of selection and choice on the basis of an annual classification, the setting up of "classification areas" in the promotion rosters, maximum periods of occupancy of each commission, regardless of age, compulsory vacancies, etc.), in addition to seniority.

The Navy has established conditions for annual and specific classification (for merit), periodic medical check-ups, classification areas for promotion and an annual number of vacancies for each commission. Positive classifications, according to reports, studies, rewards, medical check-ups and other circumstances, are either "eligible", "selected" or "ready for promotion".

In the Air Force, the classifications are "eligible" or "ineligible" for promotion to the rank of general, "suitable" or "unsuitable" for special promotions to the ranks of field-officer and officer, and "selected" for special promotions to the rank of lieutenant-colonel and colonel. Provision is also made for the transfer to other lists (the army or group B) in cases of unsuitability or ineligibility, and retention at a specific rank until the regulation retirement age. The classifications of the competent council of the Higher Council of the Air are annual and in general terms, similar to those of the Navy.

(Source: "Efe" News Agency)

COULD THIS HAPPEN TODAY?

Once before the LA 141 was invented (that to you MAC is the book held in the Coy Office containing all details of the soldiers life - No. Rk., name, sick absence etc. etc.) a Coy. of a unit based in Dublin was informed that their "A" records were to be inspected by GHQ.

Now, this Coy was good in the field but not so hot on the records as a matter of fact it had none, but what it did have was an excellent C/S. So a few days before the inspection the C/S on an elevated seat got six or seven NCO's around him, each NCO with an OS Book and pen. The C/S held the year's Routine Orders (this was Oct) and each of the NCOs books was set out to accept the details of one aspect of the soldiers life as per R/OS (Leave, Absences, Sick etc.). The C/S then read out in a clear articulate voice the first entry in his R/OS, (say 06 McCarthy absent etc.) and point at the NCO i/c the absence Book and say in a sharp order "you". This was entered by the NCO and so it went on until about eight or more entries were made. Then the C/S would order "Change over" and on that command each NCO would quit his seat and leaving his book move to the next chair. The handwriting changed and so reduced the chances of being found a fraud after many hours of writing and changing over the project was completed. The Coy. Comdr. was commended and the records were held as a model for future inspection.

Beat That. R.

Airport Security

A National Aviation Security Council was formed some time ago and at Dublin Airport a sub-committee on staff security training/education has recently come into being. It includes the Chief Air Traffic Controller, the Chief Airport Security Officer and Capt. Martin McGannon with responsibility for Aer Lingus and all other airlines using the airport. Capt. McGannon served as a Volunteer from 1934 and during WWII in the 10th Bn. and the Construction Corps. In the international sphere up to 1975 a total of 64 criminal acts involving civil aviation were recorded. In all 29 nations were involved.

WHAT PAPERS NOTICE

MOVE TO CREATE NEW BANK IN ARMY

That's what the heading said in the *Irish Times.*

Those having trouble with their not-so-friendly Bank Manager were delighted. At last, they thought, one of our own. I might even outrank him! Imagine your Bank Manager calling you Sir and saluting you (respectfully with all four fingers) as you left the office.

Veteran turf savers groaned when they saw the headline. They had visions of a return to leaking tents, soaking boots, and vistas of never-ending bogs. Cries of 'Send in down Davy'.

They were all wrong. It was a mis-print. The article referred to the new rank of Brigadier General and the Second stage of the Bill to introduce same. In introducing the measure the Minister said 'The new structure would provide a better promotion progression. It would also provide a pool of officers for senior appointments with the U.N. forces. Under the present structure, any such officer had to be promoted exceptionally if he was to enjoy the rank appropriate to the appointment.'

TO SINAI

Lt. Col. F. K. Murphy, O.C. 1 Bn., Galway, has taken up the post of Chief Observer in the Sinai in place of Lt. Col. J. Parker who is returning home.

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THE M.A.B. PA-15 PISTOL

Major Richard J. Keogh, USAR*

This pistol is made by manufacture D'Armes Bayonne, in Bayonne, France. The MAB PA-15 is made for export sales, since there is no private pistol trade in France and the French Defense Forces are armed with MAC;50 pistols made in a government arsenal. The PA-15 model is the culmination of a long series of experiments by the MAB firm. They tried to produce a simple, full power, military pistol without copying other operating systems. The PA-15 is heavy but solid.

This pistol uses a rotating barrel locking system. The force of the bullet biting into the lands tries to turn the barrel. At the same time the recoil of the slide tries to turn the barrel the opposite way through a cam lug on the outside of the barrel. These two motions tend to cancel each other out and hold the action closed until the bullet has left the barrel. Then the slide goes back and cycles the pistol. This action system is a simplification of that used in the Austrian M1912 Steyr-Hahn pistol.

Accuracy is about average for a military pistol with fixed sights. The weight of the pistol and the 15 rounds in the magazine tend to dampen the recoil and make the PA-15 pleasant to shoot.

Target models have been made and exported. These special pieces may be found with wood grips, adjustable rear sight, longer barrel, and a barrel bushing at the front of the slide.

The PA-15 has been exported, to the U.S. anyway, since about 1965. It can be expected to be found in other nations as well.

The Mab PA-15 has no external indicator to show if a round is chambered. It is a good example of what a modern, rugged, simple, large-capacity military pistol should be. Anyone encountering this pistol for the first time will note the many points of similarity to the M1935 browning high-power.

At one time the PA-15 was available in the USA at a price of $100.00 (F50). Recently, this price has increased to about $300.00 (F150).

Summary:

Calibre:	9mm Parabellum only
Weight:	38 ounces
Length:	8 inches with 4⅝ inch barrel
Height:	5.5 inches
Capacity:	15 rounds, plus 1 in the chamber
Sights:	Fixed military type, non-adjustable.

* Major Keogh, Ordnance Corps, US Army Reserve, a native of Medway, Massachusetts, USA, is now a resident of Honolulu, Hawaii. His parents emigrated to the USA from Clondalkin, Co. Dublin. Maj. Keogh had 17 years of active service in the US Army, during which he served in France, Germany, Korea, Vietnam, Okinawa, and several posts within the United States. His principal duties were as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal Officer. He is now a career civil servant employed by the US Marine Corps.

Maj. Keogh is a frequent contributor to US firearms magazines, such as "Arms Gazette", "Gun Report", and "Marine Corps Gazette". Owner of one of the largest collections of 9mm pistols in the USA, he is President of the Hawaii Historic Arms Association, and a life member of the National Rifle Association (USA).

During a visit to Dublin in April 1978, to do arms research at the National Museum and Kilmainham Jail Museum, he agreed to prepare a series of short articles on modern military-type pistols which may be encountered by members of the defense forces engaged in security or peace-keeping operations.

OFFICERS PROMOTIONS - JANUARY

NAME	TO	FROM	TO
Anderson, Henry T.	Comdt.	SO Accom & Bk. Ser Sec. QMGs Branch	Coy Comdr. Coy HQ. Sp Coy 5 Inf. Bn.
McKevitt, Brian G.	Comdt.	Adjt. Bn. Hq. 3 Inf. Bn.	Coy. Comdr. Coy H.Q. 'A' Coy 29 Inf. Bn.
Field, Eugene M.	Comdt.	SO CS's Br.	Coy Comdr. Coy HQ 'A' Coy 5 Inf. Bn.
Dunne, Peter	Lt. Cdr.	SO (NS) CONS	Adm Offr. Naval Base & Dockyard Haulbowline.

NOC's PROMOTIONS - JANUARY

C/S	Redmond W.	Depot Sigs.	RSM	Sgt.	Jameson C.	2 Grn MPC	CQMS
C/S	Wrenne A	4 Inf. Bn.	BSM	Sgt	Feeney T.	5 Inf. Bn.	CQMS
Sgt.	Ryan C.	15 Inf. Bn.	CQMS	Sgt.	Doran W.	3 Inf. Bn.	CQMS
Sgt.	Fitzgerald J.	15 Inf. Bn.	CQMS	Sgt.	McNamara G.	3 Fld COE	CQMS
Sgt.	Nolan J.	HQ E/C	CQMS	Sgt.	O'Keefe D.	4 Inf. Bn.	CQMS
(Transferred to 11 Fd. S&T)				Sgt.	O'Sullivan C.	4 Inf. Bn.	CQMS
Sgt.	Fitzsimons E.	1 AA Regt.	CQMS	CPO	Crowe P.	NS	WO
(Posted to Depot Arty)				PO	Walsh J.	NS	CPO
				PO	Veale M.	NS	CPO
				PO	McSweeney T.	NS	CPO

NBC DEFENCE - THE REASON WHY

Comdt. D. Lee

THIS ARTICLE WAS ORIGINALLY WRITTEN TO MOTIVATE STANDARD INFANTRY COURSE STUDENTS IN NBC WARFARE STUDIES.

The Nuclear Threat

The nuclear stability, that the world has enjoyed for the past thirty years, is due mainly to the fact that only the major nations of the earth are equipped with nuclear weapons, and that a balance of power has been maintained through fear of mutual annihilation. The UN sponsored Non-Proliferation Treaty, in which Ireland played a major role, was designed primarily in upholding the status quo by limiting the spread of nuclear weapons. Eight years ago, when it was first signed, there was great hopes that it would be effective even though two nuclear powers, China and France, refused to sign. All this, of course, happened before the oil crisis.

The oil crisis sparked off a scramble for energy resources right across the world. The realisation that the world's oil wells might dry up early in the next century has led to big orders for nuclear reactors from even quite small nations. At the end of 1974 there were 167 nuclear reactors in 17 countries. According to the Stockholm Peace Institute, by 1980 there will be 500 reactors in 52 countries. The waste alone from these reactors will be enough to produce 2,000 Hiroshima-sized (20 KT) bombs.

To produce a nuclear weapon a country needs to have a nuclear reactor, a plutonium extracting plant, and the means of evading from controls. Many countries, now placing orders for reactors, are making it a condition that the processing plant be also supplied. Argentina and Brazil are examples of the way things are heading. Argentina is currently the only South American country with its own plutonium processing plant. Rich in natural uranium it signed a treaty with India, ten days after the Indians exploded their first nuclear bomb. Although relations between Argentina and Brazil are good they are both rapidly developing countries in competition with each other for the leadership of the continent. To counterbalance Argentina, Brazil has now bought from West Germany eight reactors and is negotiating, as part of the same deal, the purchase of a plutonium processing plant.

By 1980, of the 52 countries with nuclear reactors, it is estimated that 30 will have the capability of producing the bomb. Many of these refuse to ratify the non proliferation Treaty. Some of these countries, India, Israel, Egypt, Turkey, Pakistan and South Africa live under the constant threat of war. When survival is at stake they will undoubtedly use all means at their disposal, including nuclear weapons.

Professor B. Feld, an eminent american consultant, states that the chances of a nuclear war before 1984 are three to one. The US State Department, giving roughly the same odds, advance the time limit to 1990.

The Chemical Warfare Threat

The primative chemical warfare weapons of WWI have long been superceded by more lethal gases and more effective delivery systems. Current nerve gas shells are fifty times more powerful than shells used in WWI. According to French observers approximately one third of Warsaw Pact Forces first line artillery ammunition is made up of NERVE gas shells. A single nerve gas shell can neutralise as much terrain as four or five H.E. shells. These facts alone greatly increase the chances of chemical warfare in a future European Warfare.

The Biological Warfare Threat

Most of the major countries of the world have renounced the development of biological weapons. However research is still been continued in defensive aspects of biological warfare. Because of the length of time for germs to spread, and an epidemic to develop, the uses of biological weapons are limited. Biological Warfare is currently regarded as less of threat than nuclear and chemical warfare.

Conclusion

For most of you the NBC periods of this course will be the only training of this kind which you may undergo in the next eight to ten years before you return to do the C & S Course. Within this time frame, anything is possible. A high percentage of the class are likely to serve in the Middle East as observers, in the rank of Captain. If the current trend continues possibly 120-150 young Captains will serve in the Middle East over the next ten years. The Middle East is probably the No. 1 most likely area for a nuclear confrontation. The long term implications of EEC membership could hypothetically involve us on a nuclear or CW battlefield in Europe. In any event, fallout from nuclear explosions elsewhere could land on Ireland and entail a military involvement in Civil Defence.

In the nineteen-sixties the army's major involvement was in UN operations; in the nineteen-seventies it is undoubtedly Internal Security. In the nineteen-eighties it could well be a combination of nuclear, chemical and conventional warfare.

WHAT THE PAPERS NOTICE

RAISON D'ETRE

In the Profile business, *Hibernia* had a full-page feature on Mr. Molloy, Minister for Defence by one Nollaig Ó Gadhra. Most of it dealt with politics which is none of our business until an election comes around.

However Nollaig's wintry comments on the "Irish Army" may be of interest. "Since the war-time Emergency, the Irish Army has been devoid of a genuine Raison d'etre. Unfortunately there is practically no public debate about the role of the army in a small neutralist state, and the Army's equipment, training and disbursement reflect the overall confusion in its basic objectives. It is still disbursed around the country and along the Border, like an occupation force." We find that last bit as confusing and as ambiguous as the writer's Christian name. Are we regarded as an occupation force because we stay on the Border or because we are spread around the country? Maybe both.

However, to soldier on, Nollaig declares "It (the Army of occupation) still lacks the mobility and equipment of an emergency reserve".

"Molloy has just ordered ONE twin-engined helicopter with night-flying capacity - thus at last holding out the hope (delivery will take two years!) to the Air Corps of that extra operational capacity which it badly needs".

Two pages later in the same issue we find Darach MacDonald writing on the Timoney APC. According to Darach the Timoney is losing ground in an uphill battle. However, we were interested in his information on that helicopter. Writes Darach -

"And the Minister's veiled statement last week that the Department is **thinking about** buying a new chopper, to be delivered **possibly within two years,** shows a rather slow response to its vital civilian role in rescue operations."

So where does the truth lie? You pays your 25p and you takes your choice. Maybe you'll side with Nollaig because Darach found that "The Irish Army was consistently evasive on whether it was going to buy. It was already heavily committed to its regular supplier, Panhard of Sweden . . .". No wonder the man found us evasive if we told him we were buying Panhards from Sweden.

Or maybe you'll wish to "disburse" Nollaig, as he finishes his profile on Mr. Molloy with the following ominous sentence:

"But if he has that edge of ambition, he could make his mark in a department that would greatly benefit from the sweeping of a new broom." Sin e Bronntanas Nollaig.

GENERAL SITUATION

Sunday Independent had a profile of the Chief of Staff under the heading "The very model of a modern General". The writer found his subject "intelligent, strong, fair, eloquent and courteous" and if you find those accolades on your Confidential Report you are well on the way to the exalted position yourself.

Lt. Col. H. McDwyer, Cadet Master presenting a plaque to Lt. S. Rouine, SPA. Cumann Para Milcata commissioned the plaque to commemorate the death of Cpl. Michael Rouine while training in England. (Photo: F. Donnelly-Swift)

The Chief of Staff looked back on his early career and reflected that "The Armed Forces was a very different life in those early days in the 30's and 40's than today. Conditions were very rough, a lot of time was under canvas in bogs and the standard of cooking was not too hot".

About the future - "We are not really up to strength. We will be starting a recruiting drive shortly to try to enlist about 1000 new men." The advantages for those 1000 - "someone joining the Army at 18 can leave if he wishes before he is 40 with a pension and the chance to start a new career."

Coincidentally someone starting a new career was featured in the business pages of the *Irish Times* recently. The *Irish Times* announced that "Major General Thomas Leslie O'Carroll has become chairman of Chatham Management, the property management organisation. General O'Carroll was chief-of-staff from 1971 to 1976, which was a period of rapid expansion, re-organisation and re-equipping of the Army."

"He had been previously commandant of the Military College and Deputy Quartermaster-General where he had responsibility for the co-ordination of construction and maintenance of buildings with the corps of engineers."

TOO CUSHY

We were cut to the quick by reports in the *Evening Press* and *Irish Independent* of a case at Bray District Court. One of the defendents John Eble of

Sallynoggin told Justice Johnston that "life in the Army is too cushy and too easy" and that he was "now going in search of some action with the U.S. Marines."

John's idea of action at home was to break into a store at Ballybrack Pharmacy and confiscate £103 worth of "toilettries". Not Talcum Powder we bet but lots of that After Shave that 'Enry Cooper sloshes all over 'im. The case was adjourned for six months, after a plea of Guilty, so the Marines will have to make do until then to see if sweet-smelling Eble is on the way. With John Wayne beginning to show his years John Eble may arrive in the nick of time. Unfortunately, (or fortunately), the reports did not indicate the cushy unit involved, otherwise we would all be seeking a posting.

TIBNIN TIMES

, No. 1, of the *Tibnin Times* was issued on January 23rd without a champagne reception or all the usual trimmings which accompany such an auspicious occasion. But we bet it was read from cover to cover in some of the strangest places. The *Times* is the news-sheet of 44 Irish Batt. Unifil, its stated purpose, according to the Editor, "is to amuse, abuse and confuse". It certainly succeeds on all three counts.

There is a very warm, welcoming foreword from the Officer Commanding who obviously wrote the piece before he read some of the references to his good self in the following pages. He encourages all budding poets in the 44th to "break into the big time by having their best efforts published in a reputable journal."

The *Times* is full of titbits, not of the *Sun* variety, about the various characters in the unit, almost totally incomprehensible to outsiders but very obvious to insiders, not least the victims. It even has a lively Limerick about a well-known Major who has been giving them harassment and not of the Frank Spencer variety. Who says the pen is not mightier than the sword.

We can only echo the sentiments of Lt. Col. Savino who wrote "To our editor and Staff may I say 'Well done', God Bless her and all who 'wail' in her."

THE BLUE BERET

Not to be outdone by the colourful *LITANI* from UNIFIL, the Blue Beret came out in a shiny blue format for its December edition.

As the editorial explained "a survey was carried out within contingents to discover what our readers wanted the journal to contain. We thank those who took time to participate in the survey and particularly those who went to the trouble to make detailed suggestions. Maybe those readers who showed little interest in the survey may now find the contents more worthy of comment." The Editor need have no doubt on that score. Those who came up with no suggestions will be the first to criticise.

The revamped Beret has a new section recommending places to eat out and an interesting article on Finland, its Defence Forces, policy etc. The Sports Section has a short account and some photographs of an intermission Rugby game between UNFICYP and UNTSO. UNTSO triumphed by 11 points to nil, "due to their ability to win the ball from every set scrum." It would have been interesting to read a list of players but let us not criticise as we note from the New Blue Beret that it is "an official publication prepared under the direction of the Force Commander."

Incidentally the Contributing editor from Britcon is Rev. R. L. S. Keat, an interesting choice.

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE

The difficulties encountered by 44 Bn. in supplying some outposts made headlines in all papers and eventually reached the leader pages. The *Evening Press* had "Concern for Irish Troops Under Siege" while the *Irish Independent* reported the "Irish in Virtual Siege", on page one and "in near siege" on the back page.

The leader writers analysed the over-all situation in more detail and the *Cork Examiner* felt that the various spokesmen were not speaking in univox about UNIFIL. "Rarely do we get the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth" complained the *Examiner* who asserted that "Government departments and agencies, as well as the bigger private concerns, sometime feel that the public should be told only so much." Surely this is true of the newspapers also, not even the *Sunday World* reveals all.

The *Irish Times* shared Mr. Molloy's "growing doubts - about the continuing effectiveness of this U.N. operation."

> But if this should continue indefinitely, and the Israeli Government which benefits from the UN presence, is in a position to stop it, or if either side begins deliberately to inflict serious casualties on a UN force which rightly has no mandate to reply with offensive action, then United Nations headquarters in New York will find it increasingly difficult to find enough member countries to keep the South Lebanon peace-keeping operations functional.

The *Irish Press* had a lengthy editorial much of it arising from an interview with the Minister for Defence in which he had warned "that unless harassment of Irish Troops in South Lebanon by the Israeli-Backed Right-Wing Christian forces ceased, the Government might be forced to reconsider our continued participation in the U.N. peace-keeping force there."

The *Press* finished on the same note as the *Times*.

> "Unless some action is taken - and taken soon - this country, as Mr. Molloy has indicated, will have to decide whether our continued participation in this particular force is justified. And the time for that decision could come sooner than many people expect."

Cpl. Donal Molloy, GTD and Cpl. Peter Tynan, 1 Armd. Sq., recruiting for the Curragh Command in Graiguenamanagh. Photo: Cpl. A. O'Brien.

C.I.A.

Coras Iompair Airm; the alternative to C.I.E. recently supplied by the Transport Corps during the short-lived (D.G.) Bus Strike. The Corps were not expecting the Bell to Ring so soon and as Geraldine Kennedy and Maeve Kennedy reported in the *Irish Times* "The Army had not expected to be called in at such an early stage to provide an emergency transport service during the Bus Strike." But called they were and they bridged the gap to the best of their ability and resources.

Hibernia, the guardian of all the liberties, saw something much more sinister in the business. "The acceptable face of Militarism" they called it. "Immunisation of the public against the increased army presence on the streets is taken a step further today (Thursday) as 50 military vehicles move in to transport commuters from working class districts of Dublin and Cork while the Bus Strike lasts." It is very difficult to keep the Army presence off the streets and transport commuters at the same time but *Hibernia* complained that in 1974 it took us 9 weeks to appear while this time we arrived in 3 days. Maybe we were sent for earlier this time.

The *Irish Times* was much more complimentary and their editorial "Send for the Soldiers" made even hard chaws blush. The opening paragraph read

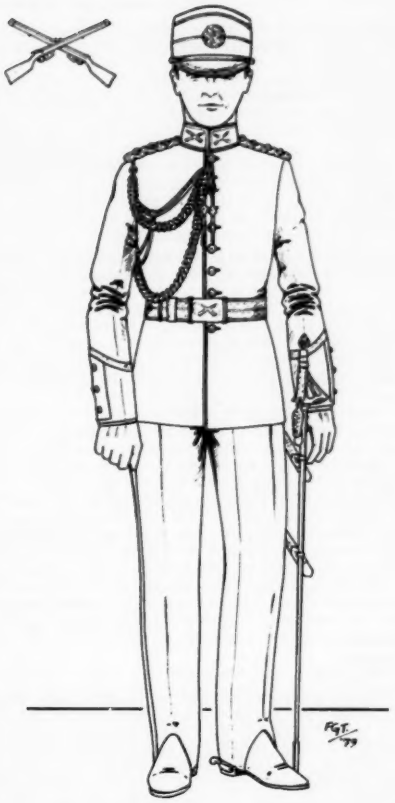
> Send for the men who don't get overtime pay!
> Send for the men who act under orders because they know that a State depends on unselfish service!
> Send for the men who cannot (and have voluntarily signed away the right) strike when the sergeant acts like a bastard!
> Send for the men who are the salt of this Irish earth!
> Send for the poor bloody soldiers!

We were just getting used to our halo when we turned to the front page of the same paper and saw the Secretary of the N.B.U. quoted as saying "that corporals who would be sitting on the tailboard of the Army lorries would be earning around £70 per week while his members had only £52 to £53 per week." Maybe Mr. Darby didn't read that bit in the editorial about the overtime.

When parity is achieved, i.e. when the Corporal can earn as much as the Conductor, will the N.B.U. merge with the N.B.O. and be available for the 45th Bn.? Might be suitable, a recent *Irish Press* editorial suggested that the U.N. authorities may soon have to consider changing UNIFIL "from a peace-keeping force to a strike force."

UNIFORM SECTION : No. 2

F. Glenn Thompson



INFANTRY CORPS OFFICERS' FULL DRESS UNIFORM, 1935-1955

The basic colours of this uniform were dark blue, scarlet and silver.

SHAKO: Dark blue whipcord, front 5" high and back 3½" high. The crown was of scarlet facing cloth which overlapped the sides to the extent of ¾"; the seam was covered by a row of 3/16" silver Russia braid. On the crown was a line of dark blue tubular cloth ½" from the edge, and, on the centre of the crown was a silver wire interfaced design. Half way down the side of the shako was a line of scarlet piping. The Army Cap Badge in silver wire, the star edged in scarlet thread; the centre portion consisting of the belt and the F.F. monogram was raised on scarlet silk. All this workmanship was on a ground of scarlet facing cloth. The chin-strap of twisted silver cord with two runners, was held in position by two small silver buttons crested with the Army Badge. Black patent leather peak 2⅛" deep with silver fern leaf embroidery around the edge for Field Officers.

TUNIC: Dark blue whipcord. Collar was the same colour and material as the tunic with slightly rounded corners; a row of 3/16" silver Russia braid was fitted around the base; the front and upper edges of the collar were piped with scarlet. A pair of silver corps badges, were placed 1" from the collar opening. The badges were in the form of crossed rifles. A white linen collar showed 1/16". The left front edge of the tunic was scarlet with nine large silver buttons, which bore the harp and the letters "I.V." The space between the last two buttons was sufficient to allow the belt to sit properly. At the back of the tunic the two top buttons were plugged on the waist seam at the top of the slashes. The other two buttons of each slash were plugged equidistant and close to the pleat. The slashes were the same colour as the tunic and were edged with scarlet facing cloth. The centre seam was piped with scarlet facing cloth. The buttons were the same size as on the tunic front. Each slash was two pointed, with the points facing towards the centre seam and measured 2¼" wide at the bottom point; 2" at the centre and tapering to ¾" at the waist. The cuff had a slanted band of 5/8" silver Shamrock lace. This band was fitted around the cuff 4½" from the bottom of the sleeve to the bottom of the lace at the forearm, and 7" at the hind arm. A three pointed patch of scarlet facing cloth 2¼" wide at the points and hollowed ½" between the points; three small silver buttons were plugged equi-distant and in the centre of the patch. The patch was placed ½" above the sleeve hand, the top portion was covered by silver Shamrock lace. White linen cuffs showed 1/16" and white doe-skin or buckskin gloves were worn. The epaulettes were made of interlaced silver cord and were fitted to the tunic by a screw button, in such a way as to allow the lanyard of plaited silver cord to be worn on the left shoulder, and to be fastened to the epaulette button by a loop. The lanyard terminated in an acorn. (As illustrated in the January 1979 issue of An Cosantoir, re: Medical Service Officers' Full Dress Uniform). There was one exception - Colonel W. Hayes, Adjutant General, prior to World War II, wore aiguillettes as illustrated. The aiguillettes, worn on the right shoulder were made of silver cord and consisted of two knotted cords, terminating in silver tags. The rear knotted cord was 28" long and the front cord 15" long; the two loops of single cord, the front one being 18" long and the rear one being 18" long. The two knotted cords and the front single loop (after the latter had been passed through the rear single loop which had been brought under the armpit) were securely fastened together and have a 1" loop of light silver cord for attaching the aiguillette to the top breast button. The aiguillette was attached to the shoulder of the tunic by a button placed under the outer end of the epaulette. A Colonel's insignia of three diamonds were worn on the epaulette. The diamonds were made of silver embroidery wire on a scarlet facing cloth base and measured 1" diagonally from point to point, and worn diagonally ½" apart. The waist belt was made of scarlet Morocco leather 1⅜" wide with two bands of ⅜" silver Shamrock lace; between the bands was woven ⅛" of scarlet silk and ⅛" of scarlet Morocco leather showed at the outer edges of the lace. The buckle and the collar badge, which was soldered to the centre of same, were both silver.

OVERALLS: Dark blue barathea cloth with a single scarlet facing cloth stripe 1½" wide. Boots: Black full or half Wellingtons or black elastic sided Alberts were worn, fitted for nickel steel box spurs.

CLOAK: The cloak of black facing cloth hung down to within 10" of the ground. The collar was of black velvet. The clasps and chain were silver. Lining of scarlet silk. The cloak was worn thrown back over the left shoulder to show the scarlet lining to effect and to carry the sword unhindered.

SWORD: The hilt which contained the Army Badge and the scabbard were nickel plated. The sword slings, suspended from a belt under the tunic were made of scarlet Morocco leather 1" wide and faced with ⅞" silver Shamrock lace. The sword knot of silver Shamrock lace terminated in a medium sized silver acorn.

Sources: Adjutant General's Provisional letter of 5th February, 1936; Quartermaster General's "Specifications of 1st December, 1937. The Actual Uniform and Equipment.

OBITUARY

COMPANY SERGEANT BILL SWEENY

The many recruits to the Volunteer Force and the former members of the 11th (Dublin) Infantry Battalion will have heard, with deep regret, the passing of Company Sergeant William (Bill) Sweeny.

A native of Donegal, Bill learned his soldiering the hard way. He joined the British Army at the age of sixteen and fought in France with the Field Artillery. After WW I he saw service with the IRA and joined the Army in 1922 with the rank of Sergeant.

In 1927, he was posted to the Special Unit on it's formation and served with it until its disbandment in 1932 when he was posted to the CT & M Depot, Eastern Command, Portobello (Cathal Brugha) Barracks.

On the establishment of the Volunteer Force in 1934, together with an outstanding group of instructors which included such men as Austin Jordan, Harry Hartigan and Jim Garry he was posted to the Cadre of the 3rd Battalion, The Regiment of Dublin which subsequently became the 11th (Dublin) Infantry Battalion. The Cadre O/C was the late Captain Charlie Cannon.

On mobilisation of the Battalion in September 1939 he became Acting Sergeant Major and was promoted Company Sergeant.

In June 1941 he was transferred to the 41st Battalion FCA then commanded by one of his former recruits, Comdt. (later Lieut Colonel) Matt Feehan.

Bill was one of the smartest soldiers I ever saw. Not very tall but well built, he was very good at games, particularly tennis and no matter what time of the day or night, was always immaculately turned out.

An excellent and experienced instructor with a gentle wit, many who later made the Army their career owe him a lot.

Included in the long list of future officers were: Colonels I. Noone and J. Keane, Lieut. Colonels M. Feehan, Major V. deValera, P. J. Corbett, P. J. Duggan, N. Duggan, D. O'Riordan and a host of others.

He retired in 1946 and joined Messrs. Unidare, Finglas and served that firm loyaly for over twenty years.

As a very young soldier, he took a special interest in me and I was proud of his friendship.

To his widow, Nell and his family goes the sympathy of all who knew particularly his comrades of the 11th (Dublin) Infantry Battalion.

His departure severs another link with our young days.

J. M.

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Military College,
Curragh Training Camp.

The Editor
An Cosantoir

Sir,

While on one recent Brigade attack Map Exercise and moving on the axis HILL 500 to HILL 700 to secure the main objective we heard a cuckoo. Is this a record?

A Student
39 C & S Course.

Training Section,
Army Headquarters,
Parkgate.

The Editor
An Cosantoir

Sir,

I read with interest the article on Irish Records by Comdt. P. O'Farrell in *An Cosantóir* (Jan. 79). In the Boxing Section the records tells us the First Army Boxing Team to fight abroad went to England in 1924. That is incorrect - the first Army Boxing Team to go abroad went to Scotland. When they fought a Scottish selection at "Stadium Govan" Glasgow on Sat. 26th Apr. 1924. I am in a possession of a photograph, which shows the Army team taken in the Grand Hotel, Charing Cross, Glasgow..

The Olympic Games in 1924 was NOT as stated in Amsterdam, but in Paris the Irish team was in charge of Major-General Sean Quinn G.O.C. G.H.Q. Command. Who unfortunately died in a Paris Hospital 6 days after arriving in France. He was the First Army Officer to die abroad.

PLEASE Comdt. O'Farrell keep the records STRAIGHT.

Yours sincerely,
Sgt. Billy Norton

5 The Crescent,
Cobh, Co. Cork.

The Editor,
An Cosantoir

Sir,

Through the medium of *An Cosantoir* I express sincere thanks to the Defence Forces in the Cork Harbour area for their very generous contributions to the Cobh Charitable Coal Fund, 1978/1979. The Fund administered by the local St. Vincent De Paul Society has benefitted substantially by the continuing support of Officers, N.C.O.s and men of the Naval Base, Haulbowline, and of the Dun an Mhistealaigh and Dun an Daibisigh. Such generosity is deeply appreciated and prompts acknowledgement in this journal. I wish also to associate the great work done by and the reliable contributions by the Defence Forces officiate O.N.E.

Yours sincerely,
R. C. Thompson
(Organiser)

Col. Blimp?

Captain Lawrence has spent virtually his working life as an officer and now intends to use his experience in a civilian job.

The problem confronting him is not just his age (53), but the fact that the commercial world has a "Colonel Blimp" image of senior servicemen.

(Reveille - *New Zealand*)

BOOK REVIEWS

THE SERPENT AND THE NIGHTINGALE by Cecil Parrott. Faber and Faber, London. £7.50.

The title of this book is derived from one of the Fables of Ivan Krylov, the Russian equivalent of Aesop or Le Fontaine. It refers to an incident which occurred in the United Nations Assembly in 1950. The author was then an assistant in the U.N. Political Department of the British Foreign Service, and he had rooted out this example of Russian allegory for his chief Hector McNeil, who was fed up with Vyshinky's interminable use of sayings, aphorisms and general folksy turns of phrase in his interminably boring speeches to the General Assembly.

It may all seem a bit schoolboyish and childish, but it was a very successful ploy. The Russians have a great reverence for their writers and the briefest quotation from them, used in the right context, can reap rewards totally disproportionate to the effort involved. In this instance the "bould Vyshinsky" capped the allusion, by inventing a Krylov fable on the spot, which neatly turned the tables.

Sir Cecil parrott has previously written "The Tightrope", an autobiographical account of his service in Sweden during the war years. This sequel opens with his transfer to Prague in 1945, where he served as Information Officer and First Secretary in the British Embassy. He tells in extremely readable prose what it was like to live in a country which had just survived years of Nazi occupation and was inexorably being drawn into the Soviet ambience, a process which culminated in the 1948 coup which saw the Communists take over power.

After these opening chapters there is an "Interlude" - UN Headquarters in New York - and then the real meat of the book, his tour of duty in Moscow from 1954-57. Looking back it is very difficult for anybody who lived through that time to recapture the peculiar and particular attitude we in the West held towards the Soviet Union in those Cold War days. Even those of us who had a special interest in what went on behind the Iron Curtain find it very hard to wrench ourselves back into the frame of mind which was commonplace in those years. For the new generation who were too young to remember that time, it must be practically impossible to appreciate the atmosphere which prevailed.

Nowadays, visits to and from the Soviet Union are commonplace. Athletes, artistes and professional people of every kind go there regularly for conferences, tours or sporting encounters. Our TV screens have shown us so much of ordinary life in Russia that we tend to regard a book like this as either an anachronism or a reactionary effusion of a biassed mind. It is, of course, neither. Things have changed, but I am quite sure that the 20;25 year old who has been to the U.S.S.R. and has been annoyed or disillusioned when the everyday realities of life in Moscow or Leningrad have turned out to be completely different from a stay in one of the Western European tourist spots, will understand the Russian point of view a great deal more after reading this book.

The great names of the '50's in the Soviet scene - Khrushchev, Bulganin, Malenkov, Molotov, Kaganovich and Mikoyan - come to life on these pages, sometimes as extremely human and likeable personalities. There is a fascinating account of a garden party which points up the eternal contradiction in the Russian character - the conflict between the official face of Communism and the extraordinary likeability of almost any Russian you meet.

Anybody who has visited such Russian tourist attractions as Kiev, the Black Sea resorts, Novgorod or Ryazan will find absorbing accounts of what these places were like nearly a quarter of a century ago. There is a unique and fascinating account of meetings with Soviet musicians and artists. Cecil Parrott rather deprecates his own musical abilities, but to accompany the leading Russian tenor in a Glinka version of a Pushkin poem is no mean feat, and, understandably, opened a lot of doors that might otherwise have remained closed. Here is his summing up of that fascinating country:

"What was the fascination of Russia?
First of all I found it satisfying from a professional point of view. There was the enormous excitement of watching the Soviet experiment . . . In the Soviet Union, life was full of surprises. Each morning's *Pravda* brought us something new and kept us guessing. Next, Russia was a very beautiful country . . . We travelled a lot and would like to have done more. The theatrical and concert life of Moscow and Leningrad always offered a treat to those who loved the best in Russian literature and music. Finally, there were the opportunities one had to educate oneself about Russia - its history, the national character of the people, their literature, their art. How little we learn about Russia in England at schools, universities and in our daily round. And how important it is to grasp every opportunity we have of learning something about this great and formidable people, the proper understanding of whim is vital now and will be indispensable in the years to come. It is also important to remember that Soviet Russia can still teach us much about the Russia that was, which has so much to offer from Pushkin to Chekhov, from Glinka to Mussorgsky, and from medieval Russian icons and frescoes to nineteenth-Russian painting".

The book would be more than worth reading for what has gone so far. In fact, we've only reached page 136 out of 219. The remainder brings us back to Czechoslovakia, until the author retired from the Foreign Service in 1976. These chapters are an ideal build-up to the events of 1968 when Dubcek's reign was ended. It's almost an axiom that if a man be literate and feels passionately about some person, place or thing, he'll almost automatically write a good book about it. Cecil Parrott really loves the Slavs, whether they live in Brno, Belgrade or Kharkov. Regarding his credentials as a writer, need I say any more than that he translated that immortal story of the common ranker "The Good Soldier Schweik" into English?

M. D. B.

THE WIND THAT ROUND THE FASTNET SWEEPS by John M. Feehan. Mercier Press. £1.75p.

Getting away from it all is an 'in' cliche and I have come across broad Dublin accents in cabins clinging to Clare hillsides or sloping towards Kerry boglands as their owners opted out of the relentless rat-race.

John M. Feehan's book tells of his own attempt to grapple with the idiosyncrasies of the inner soul after the loss of a loved one by sailing alone around the coast of West Cork. He was not 'opting out' but **exploring** - deeply and often dangerously, one feels.

But the book does much more. It regales the reader with fine descriptions of the beauty of the coastline, with devilishly humourous anecdotes and with not a little local and national history.

The author served as a Captain in the Army before becoming a courageous publisher and his account of wartime regulations for window-cleaning is as humorous as that of a fellow officer's infallible system for capturing the heart of a reluctant maiden. To his credit, John M. Feehan hits hard at all that is sham. Kinsale people will not like some of his remarks nor will the 'ascendancy'. Some of his descriptive phrases are humorous (a woman's wedding hat compared to a May Bush) but most of them are of the quality of our most noble literary talents.

His book is a must for every member of the Naval Service and will make landlubbers long to find a pair of sea-legs and hie himself off to the nearest southern harbour and thumb a lift - or whatever one does to a passing yacht from the quayside!

P. O'F.

ARMS AND UNIFORMS - THE LACE WARS, Parts One and Two. Liliane and Fred Funcken. Ward Lock £5.95 each plus VAT.

At last available in English, the latest offering from the Funcken team was well worth waiting for. It contains some of their finest plates to date.

The books follow the usual Funcken format, that is, a plate of text opposite a uniform plate, all in full colour.

Part One, perhaps of most interest to Irish readers deals with British and Prussian Infantry 1700 to 1800 plus the French 'Kings Household' and infantry under Louis XV XVI.

As might be expected from a Belgian team, the French forces are especially well covered, but the other armies dealt with are not neglected by any means.

We are told in the introduction that each volume contains approximately 1500 illustrations. I must confess I didn't count them.

Whilst containing plenty of the usual paintings of uniforms in wear, these books manage to depict many more uniforms by means of side view diagrams, incidentally ensuring one obtains the rear view information so often missing in ordinary drawings.

In the French Infantry Section eleven different patterns are shown, providing comprehensive details on all regiments in service at the time.

Flags are also illustrated, and the Irish and foreign regiments are all shown.

The British Section also has Irish regiments, and a very nice plate of Highlanders and Tartans of the '45.

The only complaint I have with Part One is that the Irish regiment of Roth is constantly referred to as the regiment of Rooth.

Part Two covers the cavalry and artillery of the above mentioned nations in addition to all three arms of the German states, Austria, Belgium, Italy, Spain, Russia and Sweden.

Apart from a couple of very minor typographical errors which will no doubt be corrected in later editions, this part is perfect, though containing less material of Irish interest.

All in all, well up to the standard we have come to expect from this very talented husband and wife team.

If military uniforms are your interest, all I can say is that you could spend your money and get less value for it than you will with these magnificent books.

MEIER

SOLDIER OF THE REARGUARD (The story of Matt Flood and the Active Service Column). Bill Hammond. Eigse na Mainistreach Publications, Fermoy. £1.50.

This book, while only comprising of 69 pages, is an interesting addition to the history of the 1917-1923 period in that it tells the story, not of military or political leaders of the time, but of the ordinary Volunteer who helped carry out their orders. Of course, whether Matt Flood can be termed an ordinary Volunteer is debatable as he was an extraordinary character. He was born in Fermoy, joined the British Army when only fourteen, was wounded in the Battle of the Somme in 1916 when he was sixteen years of age and after being invalided home, joined the Volunteers in September, 1917. He took part in various engagements with the Volunteers and became a member of the Cork (Number Two) Brigade Column in September 1920. After being arrested in October, 1920, he escaped along with six others from Spike Island during the summer of 1921. He sided with the Republicans during the Civil War, was arrested and interned in Tintown Number Two in the Curragh where he took part in a hunger strike. He was finally released prior to Christmas, 1923.

His accounts of the various engagements he took part in and the individuals he fought alongside of such as Liam Lynch, Ernie O'Maller and Dinny Lacy, make for fascinating reading. However, the book suffers from a sense of isolation in that one is told little of what was happening outside Matt Flood's immediate involvement and some more research to round off the book should have been considered. Having said that, the book is still a valuable contribution and one hopes that it might encourage other participants of that time to publish their accounts.

P. J. Y.

PLANTS WITH A PURPOSE. Richard Mabey. Collins. London. £4.50.

In this well illustrated and entertaining book Mr. Mabey has set out to tell us about the practical uses of our native plants. Obvious examples are the fashioning of walking sticks from ash and blackthorn, the weaving of rushes to make mats and baskets and the stringing together of seeds or hips as a decoration. The use of plants for medicine, dye, and scents is discussed, and the historic or exotic employment of the various natural growths described.

The use of the elder, for example, is multiple; the berries make wine, jelly, ketchup and chutney and the flowers flavour cold drinks, milk or jam. The leaves and bark have medicinal powers, while the hollow branches were used for pipes, flutes and bellows. A sprig of the leaves stuck in your hat will keep the flies away.

Many of the other suggestions for the employment of plants are more amusing than practical. Drying mushrooms on a thorn twig stuck in a pot may look decorative, but in the area of the deep-freeze perhaps not necessary; the recommendation that rushlights might return to favour in the event of an energy-crisis might not be widely accepted. However, no matter how sceptical one may be about some of the old customs, the text makes good reading, and reminds us that in the past man depended much more on nature. As the author comments about the old herbalist 'they did often cure their patients - not by magic, but by a comination of luck, suggestion and the addition of badly needed green vegetables to their usually poor diet.'

M. C.

THE TIME OF THE ANGELS. Iris Murdoch. 95p.
HENRY AND CATO. Iris Murdoch. £1.25.
Triad Panther.

When *The Time of the Angels* first appeared twelve years ago it was very well received, as indeed have most of the works from this clever writer's pen. Her stories are always unusual and full of interesting characters; sometimes, or maybe usually, the characters and situations are so interestingly unusual that they stretch credibility unduly. However, as Ms. Murdoch is a philosopher, her insights into the abberations of human behaviour are never less than fascinating, and it is possibly expecting too much that either her situations or characters should be mundane. This reviewer has found those of her novels which he has read as absorbing as Trollope, and more relevant to now. The problems presented are contemporary ones, even if age old too, and in *The Time of the Angels* the theme is loss of faith by a clergyman, and its effect on his household. Introspection, despair and love, and loss, are the lots of this unhappy group, but with the exception of the priest they survive, no doubt to experience the same emotions again. The setting of the plot, in an isolated, fog shrouded vicarage in London is excellently done, and the assortment of *framatic personae* as one expects.

Though *Henry and Cato* was published more than a decade after *Angels*, the setting is again an isolated house in a derelict area, and it is inhabited by a priest who has lost his faith. This time he is a convert catholic, and his relationship with his friend Henry, with his family and with a boy parishoner form the basis of the story, in conjunction with Henry's relationship with his mother etc. The exploration of the characters' motives and feelings are in the best Murdochian style. The story is less exotic than *The Time of the Angels* and, while it ends happily for most of the characters, the fate of Fr. Cato is chilling indeed. Both of these stories offer a most satisfactory indulgence, and must be recommended text books for confident philosophers.

C.C.

ARMY, NAVY & AIR FORCE UNIFORMS OF THE WARSAW PACT. Friedrich Wiener. Arms and Armour Press £4.95

Friedrich Wiener is the writer who, with William J. Lewis, produced that invaluable pocket size volume "The Warsaw Pact Armies". The mini encyclopaedia contained a mass of information but due to its size the various rank markings, insignia etc. were in black and white and difficult to read.

This latest work is a booklet with over 650 larger illustrations of the current uniforms, badges and insignia of the armies, navies and air forces of the Eastern Bloc. The countries covered are the U.S.S.R., Poland, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Roumania and Yugoslavia. Some 270 of the illustrations are in colour so even the most short-sighted and aging researcher has no cause for complaint.

The book is a real investment for the student of uniforms, rank markings and insignia.

J. O'L.

"A PLACE APART" Dervla Murphy. John Murray. £5.50.

It is reported of the good soldier Svejk that when, on arrival at the front, he and his company came under fire for the first time and heard the bullets whistle overhead, he reacted with protective zeal and manly outrage, promptly jumped up, shook his fist in the direction of the firing and shouted "You fools! There are people over here!".

After sixty years his simple words still ricochet about. We are tickled by them and we laugh. But it's a pity if we are too thick-skinned to be stung by them too.

.....

Meanwhile, from our own violent times, comes the refreshing and true tale of how Dervla Murphy (resolute, practical woman!) upped on her bike and pluckily pedalled for the border. Svejk's words "There are people over here" might serve to summarise the message of the book she came to write and to describe its impact. There ARE PEOPLE over there. And they can talk and listen. . . So can Dervla Murphy, - talk and beget talk. The same language, too, or as near to it as to need only goodwill on either side to bridge the gap.

Goodwill she encountered in all camps, and it says much for humanity and for Dervla Murphy that the engagements were so frank and so fruitful. If she is tough and courageous (she must be!), she is also possessed of a generous and searching mind; and since good writing comes as easy to her as bikes and pints, - or seems to, - this book is no less enjoyable than it is serious.

It was conceived partly out of her own shame at not having before now "taken a normal neighbourly interest" in the people of the North. For her friends at home, she sees holidaying in Northern Ireland as "an entirely sensible suggestion from every point of view," even apart from showing "a concerned interest in the people" or finding out for one's self "what really goes on" there.

Those of us who have got as far as feeling a responsibility to relate to our Northern neighbours as neighbours, will be both challenged and encouraged by this account of how a solitary traveller went more than the traditional half way to meet them, but in turn was received by them in a series of remarkably open and humanising exchanges.

If you don't plan to take the holiday in the North that Dervla Murphy recommends, then do yourself the honour of meeting Northern people in great variety, in lively and communicative mood, in the pages of her book. Even if you do holiday in the North, supplement your personal experience by reading "A Place Apart", for the author has got on the friendly side of more people than most of us would nod to on many a holiday.

F. O'G.

TANKS AND OTHER TRACKED VEHICLES IN SERVICE. B. T. White. (Blandford Press, Dorset) £3.95 net.

The latest volume in the Blandford "Mechanised Warfare in Colour" series, this is the first book in the series to deal with contemporary armoured vehicles, ranging from Main Battle Tanks to the "Wheelbarrow" bomb-disposal vehicle. It follows the usual format of a section of coloured illustrations (64 pages) followed by a section of technical notes on each of the vehicles covered, numerically keyed to the illustrations. The book is completed by three pages of cut-away drawings of representative vehicles and comparative data tables on the various classes of vehicles covered in the book.

A praiseworthy feature of this book is that it does not restrict its coverage to the better-known vehicles and MBTs only, but gives details also of the less glamourous support vehicles which are an essential part of any modern armoured force, and also vehicles produced by some of the smaller nations. The illustrations are clearly drawn and well detailed, although some of them are somewhat less than perfectly accurate, and give a good impression of the appearance of the vehicles portrayed, which would make this book useful to the novice student of armour who wishes to identify vehicles appearing in television and news reports. The technical and tactical references are rather basic and of little value to the serious student of armoured vehicles.

This book would seem to be of most interest to model-makers seeking details of colour schemes and markings, or those who wish to obtain a basic primer on modern armour, and for these purposes it would be hard to default. It is an attractively produced book, convenient in size and price. Not a book for the expert, but if you know very little about tanks and armoured vehicles generally, and would like to know more, this book is as good an introduction as you could get.

D. J. McC.

"ONCE IS ENOUGH" Miles Smeeton. Grenada Publishing Ltd. London. 85p.

Ocean sailing in small boats caught the headlines in the 1960s with the first Trans Atlantic Single Handed Race followed soon after by the Round the World Yacht race and names like Alex Rose, Francis Chichester and Chay Blyth became famous. But it is worth recalling that such events had occurred earlier with Captain Slocum, Captain Voss and our own Conor O'Brien in "Saoirse" showing the Tricolour in the Southern Hemisphere in the 1920s.

This book, first published in hardback by Rupert Hart-Davies Ltd. nearly 20 years ago gives a round by round account of the hardships and perils encountered on such voyages. It deals with the 46 foot Bermuda ketch "Tzu Hang", which manned by the author and his wife Beryl, sailed from Melbourne for England during the Olympic Games of 1956.

In the Roaring Forties, midway between New Zealand and Cape Horn, the little yacht was overwhelmed by a massive wave "braking all down its front, a rolling cascading mass of white foam, pouring down the whole surface of the wave like an avalance down a mountainside."

"Tzu Hang" turned completely over and was dismantled. Fortunately Smeetong and his wife were in safety harness, otherwise they would have been swept away. As it was she suffered a broken collar bone and a deep scalp wound. When the storm blew they effected repairs, rigged jury sails and finally reached Chile, where the Navy was most generous in providing help with permanent repairs. But for Miles and Beryl Smeeton, as the title tells us, "Once Is Enough" and they had "Tzu Hang" shipped home on the deck of a steamer.

This paperback reprint is from Granada Publishing Ltd., London, 1977 and costs 85p. It is a good entertaining story and should prove of interest to all small boat sailors.

Frank Forde.

Airfix Magazine Guide 28, THE ENGLISH CIVIL WAR, by George Gush and Martin Windrow. 64pp, 58 Ills. Casebound. £1.60 + VAT Patrick Stephens Ltd., Cambridge.

This, the last book in the Airfix Magazine Guide Series, is every bit as good as its predecessors.

The authors are well known to all those interested in model making or wargaming.

Though a rather slim little book, it covers its field very adequately in six chapters on, from 1 to 6, the general background to the war, the course of it, weapons and equipment, organisation and tactics, wargaming and modelling figures of the period, plus a very useful appendix listing books in print, wargames rules and addresses where they can be obtained, and even a couple of addresses of full dress refight societies.

Details are provided in the chapter on modelling on super-detailing the three new Airfix figures, and complete conversions for another three.

M.

THE WARSAW PACT ARMIES by Friedrich Wiener and William J. Lewis. Published by Carl Ueberreuter of Vienna

As a pocket size reference book this is a model publication which should prove invaluable to anyone seeking ready information about any force in the Warsaw Pact Organisation. It has some 388 glossy pages of detail on organisation strengths, weapons, tactics, equipment, rank markings . . . in short it is a mine of information on a force which is not inclined to make such data readily available.

The foreword tells us that the book was privately researched through systematic evaluation of technical literature and official accounts from the eastern countries. The intention of the authors was "to provide the reader with a handy compact source of data that is both comprehensive and accurate on the Warsaw Pact armed forces" and in this they have succeeded admirably.

J. O'L.

THE ART OF WARFARE IN THE AGE OF NAPOLEON. Gunther E. Rothenberg. B. T. Batsford, Ltd., London. £6.95.

Bernard Levin, in a recent broadcast, expressed the opinion that more books have been written about Wagner than about any other character in history. Since he said on the same occasion that Wagner causes him to behave irrationally one may fairly presume that he was nodding and was really referring to musical history. Because surely, of one avoids the obvious, Napoleon must be the record-holder; in 1965 it was estimated that over 300,000 works existed on the Napoleonic period. Whether or no, the Napoleon industry continues to prosper, and 1977 was a good year. Amongst those works on the subject published in English last year Dr. Rothenberg's must surely occupy a high place.

The author is Professor of Military History at Purdue University in Indiana and his list of publications indicate that his speciality is European warfare in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The book is naturally, as he says, ". . . the result of nearly twenty years of teaching courses in the history of land warfare". The chapter layout bears this out, and initially the reader may be misled by it into believing that he is facing a series of disconnected essays made up from lecture notes, particularly when he sees the title of the first chapter, - "Armies and Warfare during the Last Years of the Ancien Regime". Not so, however; the narrative and the argument lead the reader logically, easily and eagerly from one chapter to the next. And surely a study of the slow, ponderous, formalised warfare of the early and middle eighteenth century is essential to an understanding of what followed. Valmy was a watershed. Young Goethe, who was present on the field wrote that night: "From this place and day commenced a new epoch in the world's history", and Foch later said: "The wars of kings were at an end; the wars of the peoples were beginning." The peoples' wars demanded peoples' armies. The French army was the first of them. Here we see how brilliantly and ruthlessly Napoleon used it and how the rest of Europe had to learn from him before they could bring him down.

The chapter on "The French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars" is a tour de force. To put it into thirty pages cannot have been easy, but it is all there, in miniature. Even Hoche's ill-fated expedition to Bantry Bay gets a mention, ". . . only a few small detachments were landed in Ireland and these were quickly rounded up." H m m.

Perhaps the chief merit of this study is the business-like way it gets down to the central question: "What was Napoleonic warfare like in practice?" We are introduced to the battlefield via the soldier himself, French or Allied, his training, his weapons, his way of living and his way of dying. We see how the soldier of the Revolutionary and Napoleonic army discarded the vast baggage train of his predecessors, travelled light, marched vast distances living off the country. "Combining the striking power of mass and mobility, and with human life cheap and heavy casualties easily replaced by conscription, they obeyed Carnot's orders to 'act offensively and in mass, and to pursue the enemy until he is utterly destroyed' ". It made for a hard life, of course. Napoleon believed that, ". . . the first quality of a soldier is fortitude in enduring fatigue and hardship. Tents are not healthy; it is better for the soldier to sleep out." And so the poor soldier had to make the best of it. At the end of a hard day's march he bedded down in the open, rain or shine, his feet to the fire and a windbreak of brushwood or straw. And of course his adversary had to imitate him or be outmanoeuvred. Sergeant Cooper of the 7th Fusiliers describes a British bivouac; "Tents we had none, nor yet blankets. We slept in the open air and this was the mode; the greatcoat was inverted and our legs thrust into the sleeves; one half was put under us, and the other half above. The knapsacks formed our pillow. Thus arranged, we rested as we could." But worst of all was the morning stand-to, ". . . up and armed ready for anything one hour before daylight, and never dismissed until we could see a white horse a mile distant. This always was a very long hour, . . . shivering in the early chill of drizzly morning." Luvvly!

And if they lived hard they died hard too. It is estimated that over one million soldiers died on the battlefields of Europe during the period. And many times that figure died of sickness and disease. The chapter on medical services makes chilling reading.

There are four chapters on the armies of Napoleon's enemies, one each for Great Britain, Australia, Prussia and Russia. These are most interesting, relating how each of these monarchies gradually, grudgingly and only partially accepted the military reforms forced on them by the new warfare and the armies of the Revolution. Having read these chapters one is led to wonder what would have happened had Napoleon won at Waterloo. The Russians and Austrians were still waiting for him with nearly half a million men. Another Leipzig?

Dr. Rotherberg discusses at some length the vexed question of the attacking column and the defending line, illustrating his points with simple diagrams and with examples from the period. Apparently the first clash between the two tactical formations took place during a little-known engagement in Maida in southern Italy in 1806, where 700 British infantry, formed two deep on a front of 200 yards, routed a French regiment surging forward on a two-company frontage about fifty yards wide and twelve ranks deep - the attack column was very much wider than the marching column. The contest was to go on until Wellington's infantry rose from their reverse slope position behind the crest of Mont Saint Jean to send their volleys crashing into the columns of the Garde late on that afternoon in June 1815.

This wonderful book is simply packed with interesting information on every aspect of warfare during those twenty-three momentuous years. Anybody with even a passing interest in the subject should read it. It has enough meat in it to turn the mere learner into an expert - or at worst to allow him to pass himself off as one. It has two superb indices. One lists no fewer than seventy-nine battles in chronological order, giving the date, the names of the leaders and the strengths and losses on each side; the other does the same for twenty-three sieges. Finally, it is most readable. Can this quotation from General Lasalle, one of Napoleon's cavalry leaders be beaten: "Any hussar who is not dead at thirty is gold-bricking"?

P. D. H.

BURKE'S GUIDE TO COUNTRY HOUSES. Vol. I. Ireland. Mark Bence-Jones. Burke's Peerage Ltd. £18.00.

There are two-thousand houses listed in this remarkable book, with some 1,300 pictures; even so, the editor acknowledges that the list is not complete, but it is important that such a book should appear now when interesting houses can disappear overnight in a 'development'. The author of this massive work has long been known as an authority on Irish houses, and his contributions to **Burke's** over the last twenty years have ensured that Irish families have received due attention.

Apart from listing worthwhile houses, this book is remarkable for the details of the families that built and lived in them. Army readers will be interested to find that Rockhill and King House in Boyle are included, though the present military occupancy of the former is not mentioned, nor is the former Tighe property of Coolmoney. Houses requisitioned by the army during World War II, such as Carton and Duckett's Grove, are there. Some of the stories concerning owners - like that of the apostate bishop of Cork who lived at Dunboyne Castle - are fascinating; equally of interest is such family detail as that given about Glendalough House, formerly the home of Robert Barton, and now that of Lt. Col. R. A. Childers, Retd.

This is a publication that can be recommended to anyone interested in families and houses, a book that can be opened anywhere with the certainty that a snippet of interest will be found. The black and white pictures are generally good, and the end papers are maps. A useful **Glossary** of architectural terms, with references to the photographs is included. In his long **Introduction** the author outlines the history of our country houses, few of which, he says, date from earlier than the 15th century. Hints for visitors to the properties are given, with a warning that the majority are not open to the public. But the list grows longer, and the recent addition to it of Russborough marks an important development in this sphere. From both a historical and a tourist industry point of view it is vital that the importance of these houses should be realised. A look at similar developments on the continent and in Russia will show that we cannot any longer ignore the visual aspects of our heritage.

C. C.

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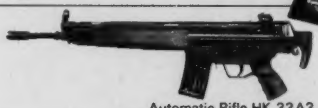

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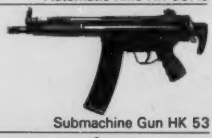

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Published by the Manager, An Cosantoir, Army Headquarters, Parkgate, Dublin and printed by Turner's Printing Co. Ltd., Longford.